

Security Council expects global solution

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The Security Council expressed hope Monday that the peace pact between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will lead to a lasting peace in the Middle East. The agreement "will open the way for a permanent solution of all the issues involved in the Middle East problems and for the definitive installation of the peace and tranquility in that part of the world," the council said. In a prepared statement, the council congratulated both the Israelis and the Palestinians "for the courage and the statesmanship with which they have undertaken the initiative that have led to this outstanding result." The council called the pact "one of the most remarkable breakthroughs in the search for peace in the Middle East." The signing of the accord was "a historic step towards the solution of one of the most difficult and delicate problems that have been affecting the international peace and security during the last three decades," the council said. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali will meet Tuesday with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in New York, a U.N. spokesman said Monday.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
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Amnesty calls for rights safeguards

LONDON (AFP) — Amnesty International Monday called on Israeli and Palestinian authorities to ensure strong human rights safeguards as an integral part of any forthcoming peace arrangements between them. The London-based rights group sent letters to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) urging formal commitment to implement international human rights conventions. The peace accord signed by Israel and the PLO in Washington on Monday, noted Amnesty, contained "no reference to human rights." It "envisages a situation in which, over a period of up to five years, Israeli forces as well as a Palestinian police force will be responsible for law enforcement in the (Israeli) occupied territories." Amnesty urged Israel to "address, as a matter of urgency, human rights issues including the detention or imprisonment of prisoners of conscience, specifically those accused solely of membership of Palestinian organisations." It also called on Israel to address human rights in the areas of "administrative detention," torture, killing of Palestinian civilians, deportations and the destruction of homes.

Volume 17 Number 5409

AMMAN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1993, RABIE' AL AWAL 27, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

PLO, Israel sign historic deal

Highly-charged White House ceremony raises hopes for end to decades of conflict

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an historic agreement here Monday on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, after 45 years of bitter Middle East conflict.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sealed the pact with an unscripted handshake in perhaps the most dramatic moment of the ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

"Enough of blood and tears, enough," Mr. Rabin said. "The time for peace has come."

Mr. Arafat, wearing a military-style suit and his trademark keffiyeh headdress for the first visit by a PLO official to the White House, said: "My people are hoping that this agreement that we are signing today means the beginning of the end of a chapter of pain and suffering."

"Now as we stand on the threshold of this new historic era," Mr. Arafat said, "we will need more courage and determination" to ensure lasting peace.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas signed the pact on Palestinian autonomy starting with the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Monday's scene would have been unthinkable even a week ago — Mr. Rabin sharing a podium with his long-time foe, Mr. Arafat in a ceremony hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton.



Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres signs the agreement on Palestinian autonomy at a ceremony at the White House Monday. (Left to right) Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, an unidentified aide, U.S. President Bill Clinton, Mr. Peres, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas. After the signing ceremony (photo on right), Mr. Arafat shakes hands with Mr. Rabin, who gets a badge from Mr. Clinton (AFP photos)



After the signing ceremony (photo on right), Mr. Arafat shakes hands with Mr. Rabin, who gets a badge from Mr. Clinton (AFP photos)

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev also initiated the accord, as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process begun in Madrid in October 1991.

But those talks made little progress, and it was secret Norwegian-brokered negotiations between Israel and the PLO which succeeded where 22 months of public talks had failed, in reaching agreement on some

measure of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories. "Today we bear witness to an extraordinary event in one of history's defining moments," Mr. Clinton said in his opening remarks in a ceremony shown live on all the major U.S. television networks.

Half a world away, Palestinians flocked festively to the streets to celebrate the pen strokes that would deliver self-rule.

More than 3,000 guests — foreign ministers, lawmakers, and two former U.S. presidents, Jimmy Carter and George Bush — watched from seats arranged on the South Lawn as the accord was signed.

In his welcoming speech before the signing, Mr. Clinton set a biblical tone to the proceedings, recalling the ancient origins of "one of history's defining dramas."

"Today, the leadership of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation will sign a declaration of principles on interim Palestinian self-government. It charts a course toward reconciliation between two peoples who have both known the bitterness of exile."

"Now both pledge to put old sorrows and antagonisms behind them and to work for a shared future, shaped by the values of

the Torah, the Koran and the Bible." He praised Mr. Rabin, Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat for displaying courage in their bid for peace. "Their tenacity and vision have given us the promise of a new beginning," he said.

"Their achievement must be a catalyst for progress in all aspects of the peace process," he said, emphasising that it must be supported by the international com-

munity. "I pledge the active support of the United States of America to the difficult work that lies ahead," he said.

The United States was committed to the security of the peoples of the region, he said, and would lead the world in marshaling the resources needed to implement the agreement. "The children of Abraham, the descendants of Isaac and

Ishmael, have embarked together on a bold journey," he said. "Together, today, with all our hearts and all our souls, we bid them Shalom, salaam, peace," he said.

Mr. Clinton praised Mr. Carter, who brokered peace between Egypt and Israel in 1979, when "many believed the past would always have the upper hand." Mr. Bush, Clinton said, showed "skilled leadership" in organising Mideast peace talks in Madrid two years ago.

He also praised the Norwegian government which facilitated secret Israeli-Palestinian talks which led to the pact.

But Monday belonged to Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat.

"Above all, let us pay tribute to the leaders who had the courage to lead their people towards peace," he said. "The world now thanks Prime Minister Rabin, Foreign Minister Peres and Chairman Arafat."

With progress being made on peace talks between Israel and other Arab countries, Mr. Clinton said, "what these leaders have done now must be done by others."

Mr. Clinton said the peace agreement is most important to the children of the Mideast, youths "taught from the chronicles of war." He recognised in the crowd a group of Palestinian and Israeli youths, who jumped up and cheered.

The president closed with the Hebrew, Arabic and English words for peace: "Shalom,

(Continued on page 5)

Peace accord draws mixed reactions from Jordanians ...

By Subair Obeidat

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The signing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel agreement on self-rule for the Palestinians drew mixed reactions from Jordanians, who either expressed relief and satisfaction with the historic step towards peace or felt disappointment for what they saw as a deal that falls far short of the aspirations of the Arab and Palestinian peoples.

Ahmad Obeidat, former prime minister and member of the Upper House of Parliament, spoke for the opposition camp, by saying "the general feeling is that (the agreement) seems like a liquidation rather than a step towards a just, comprehensive and lasting peaceful settlement" to the Palestinian problem.

"This feeling is not without basis," Mr. Obeidat said. "It stems from the mystery that has surrounded the agreement,

mainly with regard to the question of Arab sovereignty over the land and the Palestinian refugees who fled to Jordan in 1947, as well as the repercussions of these issues on Jordan."

"My feeling is not one of trust," Mr. Obeidat added. "On the contrary, I feel the impending dangers overwhelming any other feeling I might have. This (development) takes place within the context of a desperate Arab position and a lack of balance on all levels. This is Israel's real chance to perpetuate the status quo for years to come. I believe that injustice has been done to the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people."

Barakat Al Azzam, director of the public relations department at the Irbid Telecommunication Corporation said that "although people saw this (development) coming, it was an event that I watched with

shock." Mr. Azzam added that people needed time to get used to what was happening "especially after all these years of struggle and fighting and the nature of our upbringing."

Ali Al Kayed, a surgeon at Al Bashir Hospital, described the signing ceremony at the White House yesterday in these words: "It seemed like a celebration ... Rabin was disgusted with Arafat and did not even want to shake hands with him, and yet the Palestinian delegation was all smiles and rejoicing on the occasion."

"I hope though that it (the signing) would serve the Palestinian cause and the Arab Nation. We all want peace to prevail in our region."

Haytham Batayneh, an engineer said: "The Arab Nation can in no way accomplish anything by force either now or in the foreseeable future, and so anything they can get from Israel (Continued on page 5)

King, Queen return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Monday after an eight-day private visit to the United Kingdom during which the King held talks with British Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on the recent developments in the Arab-Israeli peace process, bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

Upon arrival, Their Majesties were received by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed, the personal representative of the King. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a number of princes and princesses.

Also at the airport were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return home Monday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali (Petra photo)

Majali, Senate's Deputy Speaker Bahjat Talhouli, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al

Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid and others.

Palestinians dance with joy

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians greeted the signing of a pact on limited self-rule with joyous celebrations Monday after opponents of the agreement shut down the Gaza Strip and West Bank with a protest strike.

Ten Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, paralysed for most of the day by the strike called by Islamic groups angered by the deal giving autonomy to the Gaza Strip and Jericho on the West Bank.

Troops opened fire on stone-throwing youths in Gaza City, wounding eight, witnesses said, while another two Palestinians were injured in clashes in the nearby Shatti refugee camp.

The strike ended at 3:00 p.m. (1300 GMT) and gave way in Gaza City and West Bank towns to chaotic celebrations of the agreement signed at the White House at a ceremony which saw a historic handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

In Gaza City, tens of thousands of flag-waving Palestinians poured out of their homes and staged riotous processions which

united in a huge gathering on Palestine square. Gazans criss-crossed the city in trucks draped with the green, red, black and white Palestinian flag, hanging from cars, riding bikes and donkey carts, waving posters of Mr. Arafat and singing his praises.

Celebrations were reported in most towns and refugee camps in Gaza, from Rafah on the border with Egypt to Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya in the north.

They came from the desperate refugee camps of the Gaza Strip, from the poverty-stricken slums and the luxury villas overlooking the Mediterranean Sea to celebrate in hope of a new dawn for the Palestinian people.

Shots were fired in the air in celebration in Rafah and Khan Younis.

At 3:00 p.m. (1300 GMT) on the dot, Palestinians began streaming out of their homes chanting slogans praising Mr. Arafat.

Drums beating, car horns blaring, they danced, sang and chanted their joy.

"Palestine, Palestine," echoed off the buildings, to be followed by the national anthem "Biladi, Biladi."

In Jabalia, chemist Hassan Wali recalled the celebrations to mark Mr. Arafat's declaration of Palestinian independence on Nov. 15, 1988.

"But this is a much bigger day today," he enthused. "It's the first step to our national rights. I am waiting to see Arafat now. I think he will come to Gaza soon with autonomy."

But Mr. Wali, 27, added: "This does not satisfy us because we are looking for independence."

As if to answer, a man with a loudspeaker burst out: "We are building Palestine. Gaza and Jericho first ..."

Ten-year-old Bilal Aziz also described it as the greatest day of his life.

"I've never seen anything like this," he shouted. Nor had the bemused Israeli soldier who watched discreetly from a distance.

"It's a day for peace," he said, holding out an olive branch.

But the boy added: "I will only stop throwing stones when the Israeli army goes away."

Jordan, Israel to announce agenda

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Monday Jordan was ready to announce a Jordanian-Israeli agenda for achieving peace between the two countries.

"Today is an Israeli-Palestinian day," Prince Hassan said in an interview from Amman with NBC Television. "As far as tomorrow is concerned, we are ready to announce the Jordanian-Israeli agenda."

Asked about the future status of Jerusalem, the Crown Prince said, "I don't want to add a melancholy note to what clearly already is a celebration, but the problem of Jerusalem, the right of free exercise of religion, the question of refugees is an essential fact in the context of Jordanian-Israeli relations."

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, who negotiated the 1978 Camp David accords that led to peace between Israel and Egypt, told NBC the PLO-Israeli autonomy agreement "opens a door."

"Even though we have a long

way to go in negotiating a balance of the agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis, there is no doubt that the Jordanians will follow almost immediately and the Syrians will be eager not to be left behind in the process," he said.

Jordan has been holding back its final assent to the document until the Palestinians made progress in their own talks with Israel.

Jordanian officials in Washington said the agenda, which envisages a peace treaty with Israel, would be ratified by both sides in a low-key ceremony at the State Department.

Prince Hassan said the pact "envisions 'a comprehensive peace... and we hope effectively an exchange of land for peace, and indeed lasting guarantees in a broad concept of cooperative security...'"

The negotiating agenda sets out a framework of issues the two sides must agree on for an eventual peace pact based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Arafat sees confederation

Combined agency dispatches

LOS ANGELES — Once a Palestinian state came into being, it would seek confederation with Jordan, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in an interview in Monday's Los Angeles Times.

He said negotiations which should start within two years on the final status of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank would be followed by formation of a state of Palestine.

"The final status resolution will lead to a complete, independent Palestinian state which will confederate with Jordan according to the free choice of the two peoples," Mr. Arafat said. "It is coming."

Mr. Arafat gave the interview aboard the Moroccan air force plane taking him from PLO headquarters in Tunis to Washington, where he arrived Sunday.

The PLO and Israel signed an agreement in Washington later Monday giving Palestinians limited self-government in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Addressing supporters in the

press room of his Washington hotel shortly after arriving on his first U.S. visit since 1974, Mr. Arafat said Sunday that the autonomy pact to be signed with Israel was a first step toward a Palestinian state that could hoist its flag over Jerusalem.

The PLO chairman also spoke in favour of confederation between Palestinians and Jordan. "The Palestine National Council came out in favour of that in 1983," he said. "We are two brother peoples. The Jordanians have to decide if they are ready for that."

About 200 Palestinian-Americans, from well-dressed middle-aged couples to children in sneakers and black and white headaddresses, roared with joy and chanted "we give our souls and blood for you" when he appeared on a stairway.

"I want to remind you of the decision of your national council in 1974," Mr. Arafat said. "We will establish our Palestinian national authority on any part of Palestinian territory from which Israel withdraws."

.... as refugees demonstrate

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
BEQAA CAMP — Residents of this sprawling Palestinian refugee camp Monday staged a noisy demonstration and a partial general strike to protest the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement.

"PLO, PLO, no to Gaza-Jericho, yes to all of Palestine," chanted the mostly teenage protesters, many among them masked, emanating their inflamed brethren across the River Jordan.

No major events were reported from other camps in Jordan. Beqaa is seen by observers as a barometer of Palestinian sentiments.

Many shops were closed after a dozen youths cruising through the narrow winding streets of this camp, the biggest in Jordan with 100,000 residents, ordering merchants to shutter their businesses to mark "the darkest day in the

history of the Palestinian people."

But the divisions in Palestinian ranks over the controversial Israel-PLO peace accord were clearly visible.

Many shopkeepers ignored the orders to close. Many of them even put up posters of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and hoisted the Palestinian flag atop electricity poles.

A group of supporters of Fateh, the mainstream PLO faction co-founded by Mr. Arafat, went around pasting Arafat posters, only to have them torn down and stamped upon by rival Hamas activists as soon as the Fateh crowd turned the corner.

Policemen watched impassively and did not intervene. "Our orders are to do nothing unless the law and order situation is threatened," said a security source. "It is the democratic right of the people to demonstrate, but they should not turn violent or challenge others' rights also to pro-

test."

Elderly men sat outside their homes, sipping coffee and reading newspapers or listening to the radio to catch the latest news from occupied Jerusalem and Washington, where Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were signing the accord.

Although tension ran high in Beqaa, both sides of the Palestinian divide appeared to go out of their way to avoid any face-to-face confrontation.

"What is the purpose of us fighting among ourselves for something that has been decided upon by someone else and over which we have no control except to feel being taken for granted," said Mnatsem Azzem, an elderly refugee who fled El Bireh in the West Bank during the 1967 war.

"If my neighbour, who is from Nabulus, could go back, so do I," said Mr. Azzem. "If he

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinian refugees are divided over return to homeland

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Many poor Palestinians in Jordan hope an Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) pact will let them leave their squalid camps, but members of the thriving Palestinian business community have mixed feelings about returning home.

Even if we go back to find nothing, it will be better than staying in this ugly room one extra day," said Khadijah Tamimi, who lives in one of Jordan's 10 sprawling refugee camps. Jordan is home to the large number of refugees in the Arab World.

Ms. Tamimi's neighbour, Mohammad Farran, a farmer and father of six, has been glued to his radio ever since news broke out about the autonomy deal, due to be signed in Washington on Monday.

"I can't work any more from too much thinking about what will happen next," he said inside his shabby, tin-roofed house.

PLO officials have said the accord might allow the return of some 800,000 Palestinians, most of whom were displaced to Jordan when Israel seized the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel says the accord does not mention that.

The refugees' excitement about going back contrasts sharply with the lukewarm reactions of those the West Bank needs most — rich entrepreneurs and skilled professionals — who appear to be firmly rooted in Jordan.

They form the core of Jordan's business community though they remain marginalised in parliament and in the government.

Most fear returning to a homeland very much changed since they left years ago.

"Let nationalistic and sentimental emotions aside, Jordan is home for me," said dentist Khalil Khader, from Jerusalem.

Ja'far Toukan, one of Jordan's leading architects, who has offices in many Arab Gulf capitals, said he did not rule out opening a branch in the occupied territories if an expected economic and construction boom materialises.

"It will be wonderful to feel I can drive back home and visit my mother and relatives in Nabulus whenever I want."

But at the moment, my business obligations make Amman a more appropriate place for me to live and work."

Most Palestinians, who traditionally have enjoyed a high level of education and entrepreneurial skills, have been a driving force in the urbanisation of the small kingdom.

Unlike other Arab countries, most Palestinians in Jordan have citizenship and enjoy civil and political rights.

But the accord delays discussion about the status of more than three million Palestinian refugees who fled after Israel's creation in 1948. More than a million live in Jordan alone.

"The accord is a trap for us... we will never get the right to choose between returning or getting compensation for property we lost according to U.N. resolutions," said bookshop owner Mohammad Abdul-Qader, 62, from Jaffa, in what is now Israel.

"I am depressed and so are others because we only smell compensation and not of returning to our homeland."

King Hussein has repeatedly insisted we will never force any Palestinians to return if they opted to stay here.

But Amman hopes at least half a million refugees will return to ease demographic, political and economic pressures in a Kingdom where they form a large part of the four million population.

France dashes hopes for Lockerbie trial

EDINBURGH (R) — A Scottish newspaper reported on Sunday that France had wrecked prospects of a Scottish trial for two Libyans accused of bombing a U.S. airliner which crashed at Lockerbie in 1988.

The Sunday Post said France insisted that tough new U.N. sanctions must start on Oct. 1 unless Libya surrendered four men suspected of blowing a French airliner over Africa as well as the two Lockerbie suspects.

Libya has said U.N. sanctions must end before any Lockerbie trial. The sanctions were imposed when Libya refused to hand over the two suspects and the Security Council decided recently to intensify the punitive measures.

The suspects accused of bombing the French plane have to be handed over as well as the Lockerbie accused, the French embassy in London said.

All 170 people aboard UTA flight 772 from N'jamena, Chad, to Paris were killed when it exploded over the Niger desert on Sept. 19, 1989.

France has issued arrest warrants for the four suspects but the Sunday Post said there was no chance Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi would surrender them as one was his brother-in-law.

Britain blames two alleged Libyan agents, Abdul Baset Ali Mohammedi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, for the Lockerbie bombing and issued warrants for them in November 1991.

It says they were solely responsible for blowing up the New York-bound Pan Am airliner which exploded over the Scottish market town of Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people.

Colonel Qadhafi says he will not stand in their way if they wish to surrender voluntarily and prospects of a Scottish trial rose last week after the Sunday Post revealed the men's Libyan lawyer Ibrahim Legwell paid a secret 10-day visit to Britain.

Mr. Legwell said later his clients were ready to stand trial if they could be assured that it would be fair and if certain conditions, including an end to sanctions, were met.

Battles leave dozens of Somalis dead

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Fierce fighting left three U.S. Rangers wounded in Mogadishu Monday, a U.N. spokesman said, while a Somali faction said 37 Somalis were killed and 62 injured.

Major David Stockwell, military spokesman for the U.N. Operation in Somalia UNOSOM II, denied reports from Somali witnesses that between three and 12 U.S. soldiers had been killed.

The battles started after the elite troops began what stockwell called a "cordon and search" operation near the Benadir and Medina hospitals and U.N. headquarters at 6:00 a.m. (0300 GMT). Some 50 Somalis were detained for questioning, he said.

Witnesses said Somali gunmen began to engage the troops, who were backed by Cobra helicopter gunships of the U.S. Quick Reaction Force (QRF) and armoured vehicles, and heavy fighting broke out at about 7:30 a.m.

Maj. Stockwell said the 200 U.S. troops, whose retreat was covered by Turkish soldiers and six gunships came under fire from the militia of renegade warlord Mohammed Farah Aidede "as they were departing from the objectives."

The wounded soldiers were "in stable condition" and their injuries were "not life threatening," Maj. Stockwell said.

Gen. Aidede's Somali National Alliance (SNA) said 12 people being treated for injuries at the Benadir hospital were killed when the gunships opened fire on the building.

Seven other injured people received further wounds in the attack, the SNA claimed.

Journalists saw that one hospital wing had been badly damaged. An AFP photographer said a child who was already hospitalised at Benadir for treatment of a bullet wound was injured again.

Somalis employed by Western news organisations said they saw the bodies of three Americans while the battle was raging about 300 metres from the U.N. headquarters.

U.S. blackhawk and Cobra helicopters raked the area repeatedly Monday with long bursts of machine gun and cannon fire. Grenade explosions and the burst of automatic weapons could also be heard almost constantly.

Reporters who finally managed to reach the U.N. headquarters via circuitous back roads found the compound closed and were unable to enter.

It also could not be reached by telephone so it took hours to receive any official word on the number of U.N. peacekeepers killed and wounded or other details.

Opposition group alleges attempt on Saddam's life

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iraqi opposition group claimed Sunday that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein narrowly escaped an assassination attempt last month.

It said the attack occurred Aug. 25 when President Saddam was near his home village of Tikrit, 160 kilometres northwest of the capital of Baghdad.

There was no way to independently confirm the report. Also unconfirmed is a report of a failed coup attempt in early August.

The alleged assassination attempt was disclosed in a fax to the Associated Press in Nicosia from the supreme council for the Islamic revolution in Iraq, an Iraqi opposition group based in Iran.

It said that according to sources inside Iraq, some 20 people — including members of President Saddam's own Tikrit clan — tried to kill the Iraqi leader "while he was in the region of Tikrit province."

It said "he escaped the attempt miraculously" despite an exchange of fire between the attackers and his guards in which 25 people died.

It said that the assassination attempt was led by Raji Al Tikriti, a doctor in the Iraqi army, and that he had been executed along with 120 others, including clan leaders. The name suggests the army doctor was from President Saddam's clan.

The opposition group suggested there may have been a connection between the alleged attack and President Saddam's decision Sept. 5 to reshuffle his cabinet.

President Saddam earlier this month replaced Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubaidi with Ahmad Hussein, who also holds the finance portfolio. Western diplomats believe President Saddam made the move to take advantage of Mr. Hussein's economic expertise to spur his country's ailing economy.

Japan determined to play key Mideast role

WASHINGTON (AP) — Japan's foreign minister says he flew halfway around the world on short notice to show the new Tokyo government's "determination to play a very important role" in implementing the historic Middle East accord.

Hours after arriving from Tokyo, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata gave that message Sunday to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in what he described to reporters as a "good meeting" lasting more than an hour.

"We confirmed to each other that we would continue to talk about all sorts of issues in partnership," said Mr. Hata, whose country is being urged by allies to expand its global role.

Mr. Hata, on his first visit to Washington as foreign minister, hoped to meet briefly with President Bill Clinton and top participants at Monday's White House ceremony finalising the Israeli-Palestinian accord. Then he was returning across the Pacific to begin an official visit to Thailand postponed by his Washington trip.

Mr. Hata talked briefly to reporters after meeting Mr. Christopher at the State Department. Japanese embassy spokesman Seichi Kondo provided other details.

The foreign minister praised the role of the United States "as a designer of peace in the Middle East," Mr. Kondo said. But the Hata-Christopher meeting did not cover specifics of expected contributions to the recharged Middle East peace process from Japan, a major financial supporter of allied efforts in the Gulf war.

The invitation for Japan to attend the White House ceremony "underscores Japan's contributions to the Middle East peace process and the important role it can play in the future in that region," said Winston Lord, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, who attended the meeting. "Obviously Japan is a very key ally."

Mr. Hata told Mr. Christopher Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's reform government is determined to produce visible results by the end of this year in reducing the multi-billion U.S. Japanese trade deficit by the end of this year, Mr. Kondo said.

Mr. Hata linked reduction of Japan's trade surplus with America to boosting Japanese imports with increased domestic demand. When he left Tokyo, the Hosokawa government had not yet finalised a \$17.6 billion domestic stimulus package reported in Japanese newspapers, he told reporters.

The two countries plan to hold economic talks in Hawaii next week.

Plans for a trans-Pacific Clinton-Hosokawa summit in New York during the U.N. General Assembly are not yet finalised. "But both President Clinton and our prime minister are looking forward to the meeting," Mr. Hata said.

Mr. Clinton met both Mr. Hosokawa and Mr. Hata in Tokyo during the July summit of industrialised countries. Both were then opposition candidates in the parliamentary election that ended 40 years of rule by the Liberal-Democratic Party and brought in Mr. Hosokawa's coalition government.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Eggs thrown at Israel ambassador in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — At least a half dozen Jewish protesters pelled eggs at the Israeli ambassador at a synagogue Sunday and called him a "traitor" to protest the peace agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Jewish state.

Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich was about to speak to a group at Young Israel of Kew Garden Hills synagogue in the New York City borough of Queens when he was interrupted by the shouting protesters. Some members of the congregation and other members of the militant groups Kahane Chai and Jewish Defence League yelled, "Rabinovich is a traitor" and "you have the blood of thousands of Jews on your hands." Police removed the demonstrators, but no arrests were made. After a delay of about 10 minutes, Mr. Rabinovich addressed the crowd.

Arafat's parents-in-laws' flat vandalised

PARIS (AFP) — Two flats belonging to prominent Palestinians were vandalised early Sunday, just hours before an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord was to be signed in Washington, police said.

The apartments, both in the Paris suburb, belonged to Raymond Tawil, mother-in-law of Palestine Liberation Organisation Chief Yasser Arafat, and Ibrahim Souss, former Palestinian representative in France. Unknown persons broke in to Ms. Tawil's flat in Courbevoie and smashed it up, without taking anything. Mr. Tawil is currently in Washington. Contacted by telephone by France-Inter Radio, she said the ransacking of the two apartments was an act of intimidation or a threat to Mr. Arafat "related to what is going on."

Trial of extremist opens in Yemen

ADEN (AP) — A Muslim extremist told a court in Yemen on Sunday that his group was amassing arms and preparing for a holy war to spread Islam "from East to West." Sunayyir Mossaed Al Harthi, 35, who is from Shabwa, a southern Yemen province, is charged with complicity in the killing of a police officer and two soldiers in May. He spoke at the opening of a trial in the province of Hadramout, 620 kilometres east of Aden, in the presence of members in the so-called Yemeni Islamic Jihad (holy war) organisation. Yemen authorities have not publicly confirmed the existence of the group. Membership in the group reportedly includes a number of Yemeni nationalists who fought with Afghan rebels against Soviet troops and Kabul's communist leadership in the 1980s. Egypt and Algeria have blamed Afghan war veterans for Muslim extremist activities in their countries.

Algerian council to meet as new killings reported

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's collegiate presidency has announced an impending meeting of its security council as another 20 victims were added to the death toll in the ongoing Islamic fundamentalist guerrilla war with the government. The High State Council said in a statement that its security council would meet "within the next few days" without detailing what would be on the agenda. The meeting will be the council's first since January 1992, when elections were cancelled after a first round of voting won by the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front. Meanwhile security services said that 13 fundamentalists were killed by government forces Thursday in Oualla Al near the Islamic stronghold of Lakhadria 70 kilometres southeast of Algiers. A fourteenth fundamentalist was critically wounded in the operation, which recovered four automatic weapons, 10 shotguns and a homemade bomb, security forces said. Security forces also announced the killing Saturday of Saad Bakhtout, a former journalist with the bi-monthly pro-opposition magazine El Manbar.

Schwarzkopf takes swipe at Arafat, Saddam

WASHINGTON (R) — General Norman Schwarzkopf, who led the forces which drove Baghdad out of Kuwait, took swipes on Monday at Yasser Arafat and Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. On the day that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel sign a peace agreement in Washington, Gen. Schwarzkopf said Mr. Arafat was not the sort of person to buy a used car from while President Saddam had become irrelevant in Middle East politics. Saying he had a "health dose of skepticism" about what the peace agreement would achieve, Gen. Schwarzkopf said people should not forget that Mr. Arafat and the PLO backed Iraq in the Gulf war. "He (Arafat) isn't the sort of guy you'd want to buy a used car from," Gen. Schwarzkopf told CBS television in an interview. He said the U.S.-led defeat of Iraq was a key reason which had brought about the Israeli-PLO peace pact. "Since then Saddam has become irrelevant in Arab and Palestinian politics. He lost face, he lost the mother of all battles and proved he was a liar," Gen. Schwarzkopf said.

Iran calls for lifting of Bosnia sanctions

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's top leadership met Monday with Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic in Tehran and denounced the big powers for imposing sanctions that prevented the rearming of Muslims in the former Yugoslav republic. The Islamic Republic News Agency said the meeting was attended by President Hashemi Rafsanjani and the nation's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "The big powers, under the pretext of preventing escalation of the war, have blocked all ways to the Bosnian Muslims," Ayatollah Khamenei was quoted as saying. "Arrangements should be made to enable the Bosnian nation to defend itself with greater strength and power," he said.

Vatican denies Pope plans Jerusalem trip

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican said Monday Pope John Paul II wants to make an historic visit to Jerusalem, but denied reports he plans a trip this Christmas. Rumours of a possible visit began after the Pope hailed the Middle East peace accord during his Sunday Angelus message and said his thoughts were focused on Jerusalem. "He wants to go to Jerusalem but it won't be this Christmas," Vatican chief spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters.

Accused show military judges signs of torture

CAIRO (AP) — Seven accused Muslim extremists on trial in a military court for trying to overthrow the government exhibited Monday bruises and wounds to judges which they said were caused by police torture. The men are part of a group of 66 defendants, 14 of whom are being tried in absentia. The men are accused of belonging to the "Vanguards of Conquest" group, a revival of the Jihad group which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981. The three judges on the panel ordered the seven defendants out of their cages and up to the bench so they could personally check their bruises. Then, the judges entered the torture signs in the court records and referred the militants to forensic doctors. The government has arrested more than 800 alleged members of the "Vanguards of Conquest" group and have divided them into court cases based on where they were arrested. Three cases have already started involving 55, 66 and 33 defendants. The first two are being held at a military barracks outside of Cairo and the third in Alexandria.

Malaysia mulls ties with Israel

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia may set up diplomatic relations with Israel following the signing of a peace accord between the Jewish state and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said Monday. "If the Israelis have changed their attitude, we need to study this (having diplomatic ties), especially since the Palestinians have recognised Israel," Mr. Mahathir told reporters. Predominantly Muslim Malaysia has been a vocal critic of Israel and has given moral and financial support to the PLO which enjoys full diplomatic status in Kuala Lumpur. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was here in July to brief Mr. Mahathir on the Middle East peace process.

Swiss parliamentarians visit Turkey

ZURICH (R) — Two Swiss members of parliament have gone to Turkey to try to secure the release of Swiss citizens held hostage by Kurdish rebels, the Swiss foreign ministry said. Ministry spokesman Franz Elze said Angelina Fankhauser and Eugen David flew to Ankara Saturday on a "private mission with a humanitarian character" and did not intend to leave until the hostages were free. The Swiss government has refused to negotiate directly with the kidnappers, members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) which has been fighting for independence in southeast Turkey for the past nine years. Swiss radio said a five-strong Italian parliamentary delegation also went to Ankara on Saturday.

Mubarak: Sadat was 20 years ahead of his time

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak paid tribute to his assassinated predecessor Sunday, saying that in signing the Camp David peace treaty with Israel, Anwar Sadat was 20 years ahead of his time. "Most Arab states, particularly the Gulf states, recognised at that time that Sadat was right, but circumstances made them say something else," Mr. Mubarak told a meeting of high-ranking army officers here. Referring to the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Washington Monday, Mr. Mubarak said that Camp David treaty "the first such accord between an Arab state and Israel" showed that Sadat was "20 years ahead of his time." The president said he believed an agreement would shortly be signed between Jordan and Israel, and that Israel would also return the Golan Heights to Syria.

Peace accord could cut huge arms trade

LOS ANGELES (R) — Peace deals between Israel and its Arab neighbours could knock the bottom out of the largest market for the arms trade, military analysts believe.

And the biggest loser from any sharp reduction in defence spending in the Middle East would probably be the United States, the world's top arms supplier.

The analysts said if the Israeli agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to end their conflict lowered the political temperature in the Middle East it was likely to lead to wider peace accords in the region.

"This is a political earthquake of the first magnitude," said Dr. Richard Dekmajian, professor of political science at the University of Southern California. "If this whole thing works, it'll redraw the map and change the relationships."

He said if these wider accords came into effect all nations in the area except the Gulf states would dramatically cut arms spending.

"Arms spending should decline precipitously over the next five years starting next year," he said.

But analysts said the arms buildup could resume stronger than ever if peace efforts failed.

Peace would take a bite out of U.S. arms exports, but would not deal a death blow because Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other countries would continue to be important customers, Dekmajian said.

Natalie Goldring, deputy director of the British American Security Information Council in Washington, said the United States had delivered more arms to the Middle East in 1991 than all other suppliers combined and only slightly less in 1992.

U.S. arms transfers to the region peaked in 1991 with the Gulf war. But since then, the U.S. Congress has received \$39 billion in proposals for new arms sales to the area.

Kenneth Watan, a senior researcher at the Rand Corp., a Los Angeles-based think-tank, agreed that arms spending may be on a long-term decline in the Middle East.

"The overall level of arms sales is likely to decline dramatically — in fact, it already has," Mr. Watan said.

With the demilitarisation of borders would come a thawing in attitudes which would allow the seeds of regional arms reduction to take root, he said.

"But if peace fails, then arms will build up beyond current levels," Mr. Watan said. Any future arms escalation would be likely to favour more high technology weapons, which are more cost effective — and deadlier.

"In the past, the byproduct of peace agreements has been increased arms transfers," she said, noting a rise in U.S. shipments to Israel and Egypt after the 1979 Camp David accord.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Omnicorrections
18:30	A comedy series
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varities
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	People Next Door
21:00	Faces and Places
21:30	Doc. Voyager
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film: "Easter Parade"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:56	Fajr
06:14	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:32	Dhuhr
16:03	'Asr
18:49	Maghreb
20:08	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623040	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church, Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail and winds will be northerly moderate. In Agiba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman: Min./Max. temp. 18 / 30	
Agiba: 23 / 37	
Dahat: 16 / 33	
Jordan Valley: 22 / 36	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Agiba 37, Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Agiba 20 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohamed Hindi	898787
Dr. Rafeh Zaitoun	888685
Dr. Mohammad Al Abbadi	778599
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh	827195
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	670255
Natroukh pharmacy	624672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Stomachal pharmacy	637600
Natroukh pharmacy	625672
Najib pharmacy	847652
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	801233
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630221
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Telephone Information	787111
(directory assistance)	
Overseas Calls	121
Central Amman Telephone	010230
Reprints	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann.	64428106
Al-Khid Maternity, J. Ann.	64244102
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Melhor, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	661714
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	66722719
The Islamic, Abdali	66512757
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muasher	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511126
Arny, Marka	89161115
Queen Ali Hospital	666100
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	09798323

Water Authority	680100
Electricity Authority	815615
Jordan Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Ali Int. Airport	08-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:30	Damascus (RJ)
06:30	Columbo, Singapore (RJ)
09:45	Agiba (RJ)
10:30	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:35	London (RJ)
17:55	Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00	Cairo (RJ)
21:30	Yamou (RJ)
21:30	Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:15	Agiba (RJ)
10:30	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:35	London (RJ)
17:55	Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00	Cairo (RJ)
21:30	Yamou (RJ)
21:30	Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:15	Agiba (RJ)
10:30	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:35	London (RJ)
17:55	Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00	Cairo (RJ)
21:30	Yamou (RJ)
21:30	Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

MARKET PRICES	
Upfaller price in fils per kg.	
13:20	Onion (HS)
13:30	Alma (GF)
14:00	Riyadh (SL)
16:45	Rome (AZ)
18:15	Paris, Beirut (AF)
20:20	Beirut (ME)
20:30	Beirut (RE)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
(Terminal 1)	
07:30	Amman (RJ)
07:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00	Amman (RJ)
12:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:45	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50	Madrid (RJ)
13:45	Geneva, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:55	London (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:35	Bahama, Doha (RJ)
22:15	Lima (RJ)
22:20	Abu Dhabi (RJ)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday reviews the effects on Jordan of the U.N. imposed sanctions on Iraq with former U.S. Ambassador to Jordan David Newton and Charge d'Affaires in Jordan Douglas Keene (Petra photo)

Crown Prince reviews effects of U.N. sanctions on Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The U.N. imposed sanctions on Iraq and their adverse effects on Jordan were at the centre of discussion between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a visiting U.S. delegation Monday.

The delegation, who arrived here last week is reviewing the impact of the international sanctions, imposed on Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, on Jordan's economy.

The Crown Prince noted at the meeting that Jordan is made to suffer from the sanctions although it is fully committed to U.N. resolutions.

Not only Jordan is suffering as a result of these sanctions, but Turkey as well is facing the consequences, he said.

Referring to the situation in Iraq, Prince Hassan said the sanctions have particularly taken their toll on the Iraqi children.

Reports by UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) reveal that the rising rate of infant mortality in Iraq is caused by a severe shortage of medical supplies and equipment needed by hospitals.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani and Minister of Finance Sami Gammo were present at the meeting.

Elections to be held on schedule — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is determined to hold the parliamentary elections on schedule on Nov. 8 and will ensure that they are free and fair, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said Monday.

The government will also do its utmost to make the democratic process a success, the prime minister said at a meeting held in Salt.

Dr. Majali was addressing the chairman and members of the Balqa Governorate's Executive Council in the presence of Interior Minister Salameh Hamad.

Referring to the on-going peace process the prime minister said Jordan has, since the beginning of the Middle East problem, demanded the achievement of a just, durable and honourable peace that can be acceptable to the future generations of this region.

Jordan has always adopted an honourable stand in support of all the Arab brothers throughout the Kingdom's history, added Dr. Majali.

Stressing that the rule of law will dominate all aspects of life, the prime minister said all members of the Jordanian society are free and equal before the law as they have rights and should shoulder their respective duties.

"We as officials do not consider ourselves as rulers, but rather as servants seeking to serve the nation and the Jordanian citizens and safeguard public interest," added Dr. Majali.

Reaffirming the government's drive to apply decentralised rule, Dr. Majali said decentralisation, which is to be applied in all governorates, aims to save people's time and expenses.

The government, he added, is keen to involve the largest number of people in discussing various local community problems and decide on future plans for their regions.

"With decentralisation, we hope to shift more powers from the centre in Amman to the governorates, and so enhance the relationship between officials and members of the public," said the prime minister.

Balqa Governor Eid Al Qatneh spoke at the outset of the meeting outlining the executive council's plans and activities, as well as its plans for implementing development projects in the coming years.

Later, at a meeting with delegations representing the southern towns of Ma'an and the Al Jafr, the prime minister promised full government backing for development projects in the two regions to help raise their standard of living of citizens there.

The townspeople of Ma'an, who included the director of the glass factory briefed the prime



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday meets with members of the Balqa Governorate Executive Council in Salt (Petra photo)

minister on the various problems at the factory, demanding measures be taken to boost production.

Citizens of Al Jafr spoke about

the problems facing their town. They said their immediate needs are social, health, agricultural and water supply services and infrastructure for developing the

local economy. The prime minister promised that the government would study these problems and would support the local glass factory.

Envoy proposes a Jordanian visit to Chile

AMMAN (J.T.) — The under secretary of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rodrigo Diaz Albornoz, Monday wound up a two-day official visit to Jordan by proposing that the Kingdom dispatch a delegation to his country to discuss mutual cooperation in trade, industrial and economic fields.

Addressing a press conference shortly before his departure, Mr. Albornoz said Jordanian-Chilean trade has been modest over the past years, and in 1992 the trade exchanges between the two sides did not exceed \$160,000.

The reason for this poor trading relationship, he said, is the lack of information about trade prospects and investments in either country as well as difficulties facing communications and maritime transport between them, added the Chilean official.

"We have submitted a request to the Ministry of Planning in Amman that a Jordanian delegation come to Chile to have direct contact with the businessmen and officials there to pave the ground for more trade," said the official.

He said Chile is interested in importing Jordanian potash and

is preparing an agreement in this regard with the Jordanian government.

Adding that Chile has more than 300,000 citizens of Jordanian or Palestinian descent, Mr. Albornoz said Chile and Jordan have always maintained strong ties of friendship.

Referring to the Middle East peace process, Mr. Albornoz voiced his country's appreciation of the Jordanian role, which aims at establishing a lasting peace based on U.N. resolutions.

Mr. Albornoz said his country supported the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel agreement over autonomy rule, adding that Chile supports the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Mr. Albornoz also praised the Kingdom's democratic endeavours and its respect of human rights and the adoption of political pluralism.

He thanked Jordan for supporting his country's initiatives at international forums, especially its calls for holding an international conference on world development to be held in Denmark in 1995.



Visiting Under Secretary of the Chilean Foreign Ministry Rodrigo Diaz Albornoz Monday holds a press conference at the Intercontinental Hotel at the end of his official visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Officials agree on need for more safety measures to protect school children

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although the Traffic Department has introduced measures to safeguard school children while they are descending from school buses, traffic and school officials believe that more needs to be done to protect young students on their commute to and from school.

For the past three years, an average of 384 people are killed in road accidents annually; of this average 34 per cent are children under 15 years old.

The reason for the increase in deaths compared to previous years is the rise in the population as well as the number of vehicles in the Kingdom.

The traffic department recently tackled part of the problem by requiring motorists to stop when school buses flash their lights but still many children face dangers in crossing streets on their way to school.

In Jabal Amman between the First and Second Circles alone, there are 12 schools, but unfortunately, there are no specified crossing areas for these youngsters, so they just cross the streets haphazardly.

The traffic department realizes the problem, but admits there is not much it can do about it, explained Fakhri Dawood, assistant to the director of the traffic department.

"This problem is not the driver's responsibility only," said Mr. Dawood. "It is a problem that concerns the pedestrians and children who cross the street randomly instead of crossing it where they are supposed to."

He also said that it is possible for the department to place a traffic official beside each school, and that the department expects

help and cooperation from schools as well, by having their own teachers help students cross the streets.

Mr. Dawood said that in 1987 the traffic department printed a traffic safety book that was used at schools to educate children. But the publication, he said, is buried under dust in the Ministry of Education storage rooms because the ministry failed to approve the idea.

Some of the Jabal Amman schools recognise the problem, and have tried to correct it.

At Zein Al-Sharaf School last year, a teacher was assigned to help children cross the street. "Last year, we assigned teachers and students to assist younger students in crossing the street, and we never had any problems," said Abia Dakkak, the school principal.

"We educate students about traffic safety constantly, but I believe that if there was a specific assigned crossing area with flashing lights it would force the children to cross there, and we would not have this problem," she said.

The idea of installing a specific street crossing for children is the Amman Municipality's responsibility, and not the traffic department, explained Mr. Dawood.

"Our job is to maintain traffic order on the streets and not to furnish streets with crossings or lights, which is the Municipality's job," he said.

Twelve-year-old Yara of Zein Al Sharaf School seemed to point a finger of blame at the motorists. "When we want to cross a street," she said "we wait for cars to stop so we can cross. Instead, when drivers see us trying to cross they speed up and ignore us, as if we don't even exist."

Firm to hold seminar on pest control

AMMAN (Petra) — A local firm Wednesday will organise an agricultural seminar in Amman dealing with agricultural pests. The seminar, which will be organised in cooperation with Jordanian Agricultural Engineers, will deal with methods adopted in combating pests.



Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal Monday deputises for Her Majesty Queen Noor at the opening of the First International Nursing Conference held at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

First international nursing conference addresses value of profession

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan plans to support scientific research programmes that can benefit socio-economic development in Jordan, according to University President Fawzi Gharaibeh.

The university has therefore sought continued cooperation with the various public and private sectors in the country and abroad in order to cope with development in various scientific fields, Dr. Gharaibeh said in an address at the opening of the First International Nursing Conference held in Amman.

Addressing nursing specialists from Canada, Australia, the United States, Egypt, Sudan as well as Jordan, Dr. Gharaibeh said the university has been promoting the nursing field to provide the local community with the necessary related services.

He underlined the importance of involving the nursing sector in planning health programmes in the country.

Wafiq Abdul Rahim, dean of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Jordan, which organised the conference, outlined to the nursing profession in Jordan over the past two decades. Dr. Abdul Rahim also reviewed the faculty's contribution to the health services by providing the community with qualified and well-trained nurses.

She suggested the formation of an international commission to be

supported by various nations to dedicate its attention to promoting the nursing profession worldwide.

Dr. Sawzan Majali, the conference rapporteur, said the delegates will review 25 research papers and will hold panel discussions during the three-day conference which was held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal deputised for Queen Noor at the opening ceremony deputising for the Queen.

Following the opening session, the Princess opened an exhibition displaying a variety of equipment and apparatus used in the nursing profession.

King condoles Innab family

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Monday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd to attend the funeral of retired Major General Radi Hassan Innab, the first chief of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delegated the King's advisor Issa Shurdon to convey condolences to the

Innab family. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the King's Personal Representative, delegated Assistant Protocol Chief Salim Haber to convey his condolences to the late Maj. General's family.

Also attending the funeral were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, several former prime ministers, ministers and senators, the acting chief of staff of the Armed Forces,

senior officers of the Jordanian Armed Forces and the Public Security Department, as well as other officials.

Maj. Gen. Innab died at the age of 98. He became chief of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces following the Arabisation of the army's leadership in 1956.

He was born in Nablus in 1895 and joined the ranks of the Great Arab Revolt forces in 1921.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Nouri Al Rawi at Balqas Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Mohammed Al Ameri and Ghassan Abu Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Munther Al Ma'ani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bika at the Balqa Art Gallery in Pabehs.
- ★ Paintings exhibition by Amor Aounes and

Salim Kassar at the Alia Art Gallery.

- ★ Permanent exhibition and "Chair" Exhibition at Durat Al Fuman of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweldbeh (10 a.m.-7 p.m. except Fridays).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshel Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled: "Heart of Glass" at the Goethe Institute at 7:30 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Civil servants reminded of ban on writing in newspapers

AMMAN (Petra) — Government employees are banned from writing for newspapers whether under their own name or under a pseudonym, according to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali. He said in a communique issued Monday that some civil servants have been writing for newspapers without first obtaining a permit from the Council of Ministers in accordance with Article 44 of the Civil Service Commission Law of 1988. He said no employee is allowed to write for newspapers, and violators will be prosecuted.

PSD honours young artist

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Monday honoured a student in a

local school for his drawings that are being used as educational aids in schools to spread traffic safety awareness. PSD Assistant Director Brigadier Muayad Mubastar presented the student, Tawfiq Abul Huda, with a token gift and a memorial certificate and thanked him for his contribution.

Social centre to hold herbal workshop

IRBID (Petra) — The Princess Basma Social Community Centre which is operated by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) Wednesday will organise a workshop on planting herbs such as thyme, sage and camomile. The QAF director here said that the workshop was primarily aimed at helping women plant useful herbs used in food and medicine.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab-political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
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Quite a sight of history

MOST OF us had thought the day would never come when the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the prime minister of Israel would stand together to witness the signing of a substantial agreement towards peace between them. But the unexpected happened yesterday as Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin shook hands at the White House in recognition of their mutual efforts to make history and effect reconciliation between their two peoples.

It was quite a sight, on an incredibly momentous day, in the history of this region and its nations. It will be months, perhaps years, before the true significance of yesterday's event begins to unravel. It will not take that long, however, to understand the depth of feelings and emotions of all those who have had supported, or withheld support from, the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, be they Arabs or Israelis, Muslims or Jews, nationalists, or humanists.

It appears as though there is already as many opinions on the historic deal as there were guests on the South Lawn to witness its signing.

As they watched their leader sign the self-rule agreement with Israel, many Palestinians were shocked and bewildered. Some were happy and euphoric, others were sad and angry. So were many Israelis. But one feeling was common to the two peoples: they both now realise that a new era has been ushered, a new reality created.

What will this new era lead to remains a mystery. It is an unknown in which some see a better future and an end of a long struggle and others who believe it will lead to a "surrender" that can only produce more violence and strife and the death of a dream.

The uncertainty about the future and the bitterness of the past are joining forces to feed the apprehension and scepticism with which people are reacting to the Palestinian-Israeli accord. Erasing the sad and bloody memories of the past is something that neither Rabin nor Arafat can do. The memories of death, suffering and destruction will continue to revisit the peoples of this area for a long time to come.

But what Israel, the United States and indeed the whole world can do is to allay the fears of the apprehensive and suspicious among the Palestinians by offering the promise of a better future. That they can do and must do if they want hope and optimism to prevail over fear and pessimism. After all, it was none other than the Palestinians who had to endure the worst consequences of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and it was they who have suffered the biggest historical injustice done to any one in this part of the world in recent times.

The Palestinians will have to rebuild what the Israeli occupation has destroyed, psychologically and materially, over the years. They should not have to do that alone. The world must provide them with all the support it can give. It must convince them that the "Gaza-Jericho First" option is not the end, but the beginning of a process; that though difficult, will lead to the fulfilment of their rights as a people who have suffered for too long and who deserve to rise again.

Israel, though it has the balance of power in its favour, should realise that its long-term stability and prosperity will never be secured unless the Palestinians feel that the "peace" they are reaching with it is a peace that guarantees their rights and not one that reflects the realities on the ground.

People have every right to see different scenarios for the future. But no two individuals can disagree that what happened in Washington yesterday has laid a new basis, and opened new avenues, for the future of the Middle East and its peoples. Whether this new chapter in our contemporary history will lead to a lasting peace or more bloodshed is yet to be seen. We are optimistic. But a positive outcome can only be determined by what Israel itself decides to do. If it recognises that its occupation of Arab lands is illegal, and decides to end it; if it recognises that the Palestinians are entitled to the right of self-determination, and accepts that right, Israel can be sure that yesterday's event will indeed be the first major step towards a comprehensive and lasting peace. Only this kind of peace can ensure Israel's security, and provide long-term stability and prosperity for the whole region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the scheduled signing of the PLO-Israeli accord in Washington, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said the agreement does not pave the ground for a state of which the Arabs and the Palestinians have dreamt for so long. Tareq Masrurh said that the deal is full of loopholes and therefore it is shrouded in mystery and does not appeal to the Arab masses. Saying that the Palestinian leaders should have acquired an endorsement for their deal with Israel from the Arab countries, the writer reminded the rulers of Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut and Amman as well as Palestine that their countries form the so-called fertile crescent which constitutes one geographical unit. He said that anything that affects any part of this unit is bound to have serious consequences on the rest. Therefore, he added, the rulers of the fertile crescent ought to rise above their petty differences and unite their stands as they cannot separately fend off the looming danger to the area. This particular stage in Arab history requires from the Arab leaders to transcend their differences and stand united, he added. It is rather hard for the decision-makers in Amman to deal with the situation as it takes a lot of courage to adopt an appropriate stand vis-a-vis this serious development which affects everyone's future, he said. The writer said that the decision-makers in Amman are keen to ensure national unity in Jordan and are also keen to adopt a national stand that would ensure further stability to the Jordanian people and leadership.

The View from Fourth Circle

Jordan, Palestine and the business of nationhood

By Rami G. Khouri

MANY voices in Jordan have reacted to the PLO-Israeli breakthrough with a combination of uncertainty and indignation, betraying fears for Jordan's future status. Some have spoken of the marginalisation of Jordan, or a possible weakening in its economic, political, demographic or geo-strategic condition. I believe this sort of analysis is shortsighted, emotional, provincial, and wrong — though it is understandable that some Jordanians should suddenly worry about the future as this region stands on the threshold of major transformation.

If the current peace breakthrough succeeds and leads to an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the changes in the Middle East in the next decade will be similar in magnitude to the recent changes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. They will free up a region whose geo-political development has been frozen since mid-century, except for incremental extensions in Israel's direct control of, or indirect influence on, Arab land, strategic decision-making, and national resources.

As happened in post-cold-war Europe, a post-Arab-Israeli conflict Middle East will experience a major yet phased series of transformations in almost every aspect of individual and national life: demography, trade and economic investment patterns, foreign aid flows, cultural freedoms, political roles, security arrangements, strategic alliances, domestic ideological forces, international alliances, people's personal identities, and even in the very basic configurations and borders of individual countries. Jordan will be subject to all of these forces, and should expect significant changes.

The pessimists and confused amongst us fear that if the peace process falters, political tension and refugee waves will spill over into Jordan from Palestine, turning Jordanian domestic political institutions into a playground for regional tensions and ideological battles. This is an unnecessarily pessimistic view that sees Jordan as a passive actor whose role is primarily as a historical shock absorber for the Palestine problem. To view continued domestic democratisation as a possible threat in a turbulent region strikes me as nonsense.

Assuming (as I do) that the peace succeeds, by the end of this decade we are likely to have a stable Palestinian statelet emerging in the West Bank and Gaza, living in peace with Israel and with close ties to Jordan, while peaceful, good neighbourly relations are established among Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. In the best of circumstances, the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict will also lead to: a) reductions in military spending in the immediate area, b) continued liberalisation and democratisation throughout the region, c) infusions of economic aid and, d) greater intra-regional trade and investment, coupled with more foreign investment and economic benefits from tourism, transit trade and joint ventures.

If we can imagine this (admittedly hopeful) scenario around the year 2000, we are likely to see Jordan suffer some short term political and economic structural adjustments; but the net long-term impact on Jordan is likely to be positive, because the attributes and assets of Jordan today are largely in keeping with the forces that will drive the region in the next several decades: political liberalisation, human development, regional integration, and a positive attitude to international trade and cultural interaction.

In the short term, some Jordanians of Palestinian origin will opt to live in Palestine and to manifest their political and national identity there, as Palestinians rather than as Jordanians. This is their right, and it has always been assumed as an option under the formulations that saw the east and west banks merge in mid-century. Jordanians have a right to be sad, but not angry. Some Palestinian repatriation from Jordan will have a temporary disruptive economic effect, as Palestinian labour, entrepreneurial and professional talent, and money shift from the east to the west bank of the Jordan River.

There could be a drop in foreign aid to Jordan, in view of the enormous new needs in Palestine, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan and other Middle Eastern lands with more urgent needs than Jordan. Some foreign and Arab countries may look at Jordan in a new light, seeing it as playing a less crucial geo-political role in a Middle East that is at peace with itself. This is likely, because Jordan's many friends around the world have always clearly stated that they support us because of our role as a moderate, centrist, restraining, and rational force in a region that has been bedevilled by the concurrent forces of extremism, militarism, hatred, terrorism, communism, and religious fanaticism.

There is also a fear among some here that the new Palestinian

statelet will be closely tied to Israel, rather than to Jordan and the rest of the Arab World. This generates resentment among some Jordanians who feel that the Palestinians may have used Jordan and its facilities for many decades, only now to turn away and form new associations and alliances. I think this view is unjustified; it reflects an understandable combination of resentment at Jordan's being sidelined temporarily from the international diplomatic spotlight, and a narrow, short-term focus that neglects the historical depth of Jordanian-Palestinian ties as well as the long-term forces that will drive this region.

It is understandable that in the sudden excitement of the Palestinian-Israeli breakthrough, all eyes should focus on Israel and Palestine. It is also understandable that Israel should try to monopolise future economic and national/logistical relations with Palestine, partly to reap the economic benefits and partly to assuage its exaggerated security fears. But as the novelty and excitement fade, and both Jordanians and Palestinians get down to the hard work of addressing the many practical and emotional issues that will have to be worked out in the years to come, I have no doubt that the underlying forces of Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation and integration will assert themselves. On the economic, demographic, geographic, social, and political levels, the strong Jordanian-Palestinian structural linkages cannot be severed simply because Israel might want this to happen or because lots of money is being dangled before exhausted Palestinians and Israelis who desperately seek normalcy and hope in their lives.

"Jordan and Palestine as separate entities do not make a lot of historical or economic sense, if we project back a few millennia or ahead a few decades. Their destiny is to join forces, and they will do so, as they have done so in the ancient and immediate past. The vast majority of Palestinians who have lived in Jordan or enjoyed facilities provided by Jordan look at Jordan with a deep sense of appreciation, affection and affinity."

The sudden possibility that Palestinians may soon have an alternative to their lives and identities in Jordan will certainly cause some emotional stress and friction, for both Palestinians and Jordanians. The reality, I would suggest, is that the emergence of a stable, independent Palestinian statelet in Palestine will help remove the suspicions and tensions that have often characterised Jordanian-Palestinian political ties, and from there Jordan and Palestine can re-configure their close ties on a new, more stable, and more mutually satisfying basis.

Jordan and Palestine as separate entities do not make a lot of historical or economic sense, if we project back a few millennia or ahead a few decades. Their destiny is to join forces, and they have done so in the ancient and immediate past. The vast majority of Palestinians who have lived in Jordan or enjoyed facilities provided by Jordan look at Jordan with a deep sense of appreciation, affection and affinity. They will manifest these sentiments in due course — when the Palestinian emotional and political landscape settles down into a satisfactory configuration, and when the current emotional jamboree runs its course and the business of real life concerns takes centre stage.

Both Jordanians and Palestinians have to resist the temptation to wave the false flags of narrow, exclusivist nationalism; instead they should give fresh meaning to the historical pattern that has always defined this area since the birth of city-states and nations some five thousand years ago: small national entities that try to survive as inward-looking bastions supported by foreign aid from distant empires do not endure for long, while nations that live by the strength of their own collective, regional resources have a better chance of surviving and flourishing.

A good historical parallel may be the short-lived Herodian state in Palestine that required Roman support, compared to the Nabataean Kingdom based in southern Jordan that flourished for nearly half a millennium; Nabataea excelled and endured because it based its vitality on creativity, hard work, and indigenous resources exploited within a context of regional and international trade. Our option in Jordan today, in view of the new regional circumstances that will prevail, is simple: we can pull down the

shutters and try to protect ourselves from external stresses, or we can stand confidently on our principles and our past achievements and build a future on the strength of our many assets.

In the more stable, peaceful, and democratising Middle East that we should experience by the turn of the century, Jordan will give up some of the attributes and false assets that it enjoyed during the last half a century as a consequence of the regional war scenario; instead, it will gain new, more durable assets. The key change will be that Jordan's assets will be based on its status as an element within a larger national configuration, rather than only as an east bank state. This larger unit will probably be a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation at first, later perhaps expanding to something even bigger that comprises Syria, Lebanon and Israel — something like a Semitic common market.

In the future Middle East, Jordan will be a pivotal economic link between Palestine and Israel, on the one hand, and the huge markets of the eastern Arab World and the Gulf, on the other. The country's role as a hub of regional and international transit trade should also increase in line, creating tremendous new opportunities for services, value added industries, and joint venture transport schemes.

Continued political liberalisation in Jordan, combined with our relatively high education and human development levels, should spur sustained progress in creative, intellectual and professional activities, opening up new markets in fields such as education, health, media, and the arts. But we cannot rely on old clichés and slogans about our pioneering Arab democratisation trend to earn a secure place in the future Middle East, because so many other Arab states will also have serious democracies. And Palestine will have options other than Jordan for economic outlets to the east and west.

Jordan's challenge, therefore, is to recognise the extent of the changes that have started to take place in this region, and to take advantage of them through three key attitudes:

1. Honesty, realism and composure vis-a-vis Palestine and Palestinians, leaving emotionalism, fear and pettiness for others.
2. Self-confidence and pride in Jordan's modern record and its national principles; Jordan's future in the region will be assured by our commitment to human development, rationalism, humanism, and political liberalisation and participation far more surely than by any misguided and provincial tendency to lock the doors, pull down the shutters, and hope that our friends come through with enough aid money year after year to finance our food purchases.
3. Build on our many assets as a pivot in a rich and strategic region, recognising that we have many historical parallels to learn from.

The experience of the Nabataean Kingdom over two thousand years ago is instructive for Jordan today. Nabataea, too, flourished as a small, vulnerable kingdom-state surrounded by the imperial giants of Greece, Rome, Egypt and Persia. It was the only ancient civilisation of international stature that was headquartered in the soil of Jordan. It was known for its agricultural and water systems, advanced technology, humanistic monarchy, justice system, commercial prowess, and penchant to resolve regional disputes through diplomacy rather than through force. Today — two thousand years later — history remembers the Nabataeans with compassion and respect, and visitors from all over the world visit the magnificent Nabataean capital at Petra. Its real magnificence, however, goes far beyond its stone-carved tombs, into the hearts, minds, and national principles of its people.

Quality and enduring statehood, regional relevance, and historical respect are attributes that small kingdoms on the land of Jordan have achieved before in history, even when the region and the world went through wrenching, wholesale transformations. Those in the past in this land who panicked, suffered self-doubt, or became dependent or lazy inevitably lost out in the relentless and unforgiving drama of history. But success — even valour and heroism — in the ancient business of nationhood in the land of Jordan were achieved in the past when national policies were based on humanistic principles, self-confidence, hard work, realism, a sense of composure, and, above all, an accurate awareness of this land's real place in this region and to this world.

Two thousand years later, the world still marvels at the achievements of a small kingdom that dared, and sparked, in the land of Jordan.

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Beyond rivers of blood and an abyss of suffering

By Amos Oz

JERUSALEM — The Israeli-Arab war has been going on now for almost three generations. It began with sporadic attacks by Arabs on Jews returning to their homeland. Later it escalated into a vicious circle of belligerence, extending from Iran to North Africa. Tens of thousands of Israelis and more than 100,000 Arabs have been killed and maimed.

In the beginning, it was too much to do with neighbours, involving knives and handguns. Eventually it deteriorated into a war of tanks and planes and ballistic missiles. During the Gulf war, the means of mass destruction verged on apocalyptic. At the same time, it again became a battle of knives and stones.

Hate-filled fanatics have always attempted to turn this conflict into a religious war, a race war, a war between every Jew and every Arab, as are the wars in Ireland and Bosnia. But the conflict between ourselves and the Palestinians is not a holy war but essentially a battle of two peoples, both of whom regard this country as their one and only homeland; a tragic clash between right and right.

For decades now our proposed to the Arabs one compromise after another, including compromises that were much harder for us than the one now being negotiated. But they rejected any compromise and persistently demanded that the Jews dismember their state and go away. This was a blunt, cruel attitude that we and they paid for in rivers of blood and an abyss of suffering.

The Israeli victory in the 1967 war was followed by some euphoric years, during which Israeli governments refused to recognise the very existence of a Palestinian people, expecting the Palestinians to forget their national identity and to surrender every bit of the land to our domination. This policy was both immoral and unrealistic.

And now we have all reached a crossroads: The two peoples are finally about to come to terms with the simple fact that they are two peoples and that, for both of



them, the country is their homeland. We and they, along with most of the Arab World, are ready to consider a partition of the land between its peoples.

What partition and under what conditions? This question still involves a complex process of bargaining about who gets what and how much and under what terms and how to ensure Israel's peace and security after the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip ends.

All this must be clarified around the negotiating table and calls for wisdom, patience and vision. Clearly, the Palestinians are going to get parts of the land, whereas we get documents and promises. It is therefore crucial that a time element is included to make sure that the Arab peace check does not bounce.

between the agreement and the completion of the Israeli withdrawal, some years will have to elapse. In the meantime, we will have to hold on to certain positions that will enable us to cancel the deal in case the Palestinians are unwilling or unable to deliver their part of the bargain.

In 1947, the United Nations General Assembly resolved to partition the land between its two peoples along geographic lines that today no Israeli would accept and no reasonable Palestinian would claim. That resolution provided the legal foundation for the establishment of Israel. Palestine did not come into being in 1947. This was in part because regular Arab armies from neighbouring countries occupied territories designated for a Palestinian state.

Now, at long last, the Palestinians will compromise on much less than they could have received with peace and honour 45 years, five wars and tens of thousands of dead ago — our dead and theirs.

Israel is now going back to what for decades used to be a mainstream Zionist attitude: It is once again willing to make an ethical, realistic compromise based upon the recognition of the Palestinians' right to a homeland.

Recognition for recognition, security for security and good neighbourliness for good neighbourliness.

What if they cheat? And what if they take whatever we give them and demand more, still exercising violence and terror? Within the present proposed settlement, Israel will still be in a position to close in on Palestine and to undo the deal.

If worse comes to worst, if it

turns out that the peace is no peace, it will always be militarily easier for Israel to break the backbone of a tiny, demilitarised Palestinian entity than to go on and on breaking the backbones of 8-year-old, stone-throwing Palestinian kids. Israeli doves, more than other Israelis, must assume, once peace comes, a clear-cut "hawkish" attitude concerning the duty of the future Palestinian regime to live precisely by the letter and spirit of its own agreements.

The plan now being negotiated — Gaza and Jericho first — is a sober and reasonable option. If the Palestinians want to hold on to Gaza and Jericho, eventually assuming power in other parts of the occupied territories, they will have to prove to us, to themselves and to the world that they have indeed abandoned the ways of

violence and terror, that they are capable of suppressing their own fanatics, that they are renouncing the destructive Palestinian character and withdrawing from what they used to call "the right of return".

They will also have to show that they are willing to tolerate in their midst a minority of Israelis who may choose to live where there will be no Israeli government.

Israel, for its part, will have to deliver on the initial Zionist promise: to become a source of blessing to its neighbours, to help itself and them in breaking the vicious circle of suffering, despair and poverty and to embark on the road to prosperity.

The tragic clash between right and right in the Middle East may be nearing its end. Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Faisal Hussein will hear from some of their compatriots the word "traitor". May they wear this title as a decoration for their vision and courage. Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle, David Ben-Gurion and Anwar Sadat also belonged to this honourable club.

We must remember that the Israeli opponents are not just demagogues and warmongers. Most of them are genuinely afraid that the sky is about to fall on them and that their homes and their country are in mortal danger. We have to treat their feelings with understanding and respect, as long as these feelings are manifested in lawful ways.

From a Zionist perspective, it may be that in the future, people will regard 1993 as the end of our 100 years of solitude in the land of Israel. This may be the end of the prologue for Zionism and now, perhaps, it is time to begin the Israeli story proper: to consolidate Israel as a safe, stable, legitimate home for the Jewish people and its Arab citizens, a focus of creative energies and a source of blessing for Israel's neighbours — including the Palestinians.

The writer, a novelist, is a founder of Israel's Peace Now movement. This article is reprinted from the New York Times.

مكتبة امي

Bank of Japan guiding rates lower amid more signs of bad economy

TOKYO (AFP) — Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Monday the central bank was guiding short-term rates lower while official and private polls showed more signs of Japan's economic slump.

Mr. Mieno said the bank was not considering a cut in the official discount rate from the current level of 2.5 per cent, but it had been guiding short-term rates lower on the money market since mid-August.

He said the move had the same economic stimulus effect as a reduction in the central bank's base rate on lending to commercial banks.

"The policy of easier credit is effectively bearing fruit," he told a regular press conference.

Mr. Mieno also admitted a downside risk to the economy was growing amid sluggish capital and consumer spending while business and political leaders were calling for a further easing of credit to boost Japan's flagging economy.

The Japanese government re-

portedly plans to unveil an emergency economic package worth five trillion yen (\$48 billion) this week in addition to deregulation measures to be announced this month.

The reported package, which follows 13.2 trillion yen package approved in April, will include further public investment, promotion of housing investment and more lending to small- and medium-sized companies.

According to a survey released by the finance ministry, pre-tax profits in all industries in the three months ended June 30 declined 5.6 per cent from a year earlier, representing a record 12th straight year-to-year fall.

But the margin was smaller than the 14 per cent decline in the January-to-March quarter and the 39.4 per cent plunge in October-December last year, the ministry said.

In the fiscal year 1992 to March 31, pre-tax profits of all industries declined 22.6 per cent from the previous year for the third straight annual setback.

A newspaper survey, meanwhile, showed that planned capital spending by major Japanese companies for the current fiscal year has fallen 8.8 per cent from the previous year.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun said the survey on 1,906 companies also found a double-digit decline among manufacturers for the second straight year and the first decline in nine years for non-manufacturers.

In a separate survey, the Kyodo News Agency said most Japanese businessmen believed a recent appreciation of the yen had helped prolong economic troubles.

Only 17 of the 100 executives at blue-chip companies said the economy would bottom out within this year, a sharp fall from the previous Kyodo survey in April, which found that most of them expected an upturn this year.

In the latest survey, half of the businessmen predicted the economy would pick up in the first half of 1994 and 10 per cent feared the recovery would come

only in the second half of 1994.

The businessmen called for an income tax reduction and deregulation to breathe fresh air into the economy, rather than such traditional measures as an official discount rate cut and additional public works expenditures.

International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kamegaki told business leaders, including Federation of Employers Association President Takeshi Nagano, that the government would study the possibility of an income tax cut "from every possible aspect."

"We won't be dodging the question," he said.

In the Nihon Keizai Shimbun survey, capital spending for fiscal 1993 was expected to be 20.55 trillion yen (\$194 billion), down 0.9 per cent from their original estimates.

It follows a nine per cent decline last year and is the first time since fiscal 1973 when the daily began its capital spending survey that corporate capital spending have fallen for two years in a row.

Pakistan central bank governor attacks rich

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's central bank governor Sunday issued a stinging attack on what he called the rich privileged classes whose tax dodging and loan defaults were making the poor poorer and shattering the economy.

"It is rather ironic that a large number of economic policy distortions that exist in the economy have been retained, and even intensified, at the instance of various interest groups in the private sector itself," State Bank of Pakistan Governor Mohamad Yaqub told the Islamabad Stock Exchange.

He blamed distortions in the

fiscal, monetary and trade policies for creating an underground economy and income inequalities.

He praised far-reaching economic reforms launched in 1991 to deregulate the financial system and make the private sector the main engine of growth, but said Pakistan still had far to go.

On fiscal policy, he attacked landlords, the service sector, retailers and small industry for creating pressure groups that used exemptions, concessions, holidays, privileges and loopholes to avoid the tax net.

"As a result the tax base of the economy is very narrow," he

pointed out.

Only about one million of Pakistan's 120 million people pay taxes and corruption is rampant throughout government, bureaucracy and business, diplomats and economists say.

Mr. Yaqub described "a privileged class of tax dodgers and corrupt tax collectors coexisting with a fixed income salaried group who pay high taxes, palatial living co-existing with people living in sub-human conditions."

The tax system was interfering in market mechanisms, he said. The budget deficit soared to 7.5 per cent in 1992/93 (July/June), 1.5 per cent over target.

Distortions in monetary policy, such as segmentation of the credit market, multiplicity of the rate structure and outside interference were making the cost of money exorbitant, said Mr. Yaqub, who took over as central bank governor last month.

Government borrowing had been excessive while credit to the private sector was less than adequate, he charged.

"The worst are the defaulters, most of whom are rich and influential, and they are being financed through taxation of the poor in the form of negative return to their savings in real terms," he concluded.

China-Taiwan trade set to hit record in 1993

PEKING (R) — China's trade with Taiwan will hit a record \$10 billion this year with Taiwan posting a surplus of \$8 billion, the China Daily business weekly has said.

In the first half of the year, Taiwan's exports to China, mostly industrial raw materials and parts and components, rose 136.7 per cent to \$5.61 billion from the same period a year earlier, the newspaper said. Imports from

China, mostly medicine and farm goods, rose 77 per cent to \$524 million.

It quoted an analyst at China's ministry of foreign economic relations and trade as saying that trade volume would exceed \$10 billion this year, up from \$7.4 billion in 1992.

It said that Taiwan's reliance on the mainland market was increasing as exports to the United

States, Japan and Europe, its traditional markets, declined.

China had approved more than 300 Taiwan-funded investment projects in Peking in the first half of 1993, about the same as in all of 1992, the newspaper said.

The average size of the projects was increasing and there was a trend toward investment in computers, fine chemicals and digital-controlled machine tools.

One of the largest Taiwan projects in the capital is the Peking around-the-world golf club, with 18 holes, due to open in 1995, with a total investment of \$70 million, it added.

China and Taiwan have been diplomatic enemies since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949, but tensions began to ease in the later 1980s and economic links are booming.

Venezuela proposes 24.5 b/d OPEC ceiling

NICOSIA (R) — Venezuelan Energy Minister Alirio Parra proposed, in an interview published Monday, a 900,000 barrel-per-day (b/d) increase in OPEC's output ceiling despite current weak prices.

He said OPEC must return to reality and warned there would be no room for entrenched positions when the group's ministers meet to set group strategy in Geneva on Sept. 25.

Mr. Parra, speaking to the Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey, was until last June the president of the Organisation

of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and is still widely respected.

His idea is that if the group sets a realistic accord, its members are more likely to respect it and it could help boost prices — by as much as \$3 a barrel, to around \$18-\$19 per barrel for North Sea Brent, compared to under \$16 now.

"Such (current) levels are having grave consequences for many member countries," he said. "We must get back to reality."

He said that despite overproduction in the third quarter there

would appear to be room for an increase in OPEC's fourth quarter ceiling to around 24.5 million b/d from 23.58 million. Fourth quarter demand rises because of the northern winter.

But OPEC also could not avoid confronting the way quotas are allocated.

"We need changes, perhaps even profound changes, in the way we address the quota issue. Unless we get to the roots of the problems, we are effectively undermining the essence of the organisation itself," he said.

Asked about entrenched posi-

tions of players like Saudi Arabia and Iran, he said: "In the quest for suitable solutions to the problem of stability and the problem of distribution of future production quotas, there is simply no room for entrenched positions."

He said the reintegration of Kuwait into the quota system was OPEC's top priority. Kuwait has opted out on the grounds that the quota offered it was less than OPEC had pledged to it earlier.

Beyond that, a number of producers with excess capacity should be allowed to raise their allocations.

Viacom to pay \$8.2b in merger with Paramount

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. cable television operator Viacom Inc. said Sunday that it was buying movie and entertainment conglomerate Paramount Communications Inc., forming an entertainment giant worth \$18 billion.

Viacom, operator of such popular cable TV networks as MTV, Nickelodeon and Showtime, agreed to pay \$8.2 billion in cash and stock for Paramount, whose businesses range from movies, television and publishing to live entertainment, including the New York Knicks basketball team and the New York Rangers Hockey team.

"The global technological revolution in entertainment has just begun," Viacom Chairman Sumner Redstone said in a statement announcing the deal.

Mr. Redstone will be chairman of the new company, to be called Paramount Viacom International Inc., and Paramount Chairman Martin Davis will be chief execu-

tive officer.

Under terms of agreement, Viacom will pay Paramount shareholders approximately 69.14 per share in cash and stock, acquiring all outstanding Paramount shares.

Paramount's stock rose \$4.25 to \$61.125 Friday on the New York Stock Exchange as word of the impending deal leaked out, while Viacom's class A voting shares rose 37.5 cents to \$66.375 and its class B non-voting shares closed at 59.375, up 75 cents. Viacom shares are traded on the American Stock Exchange.

The merger culminates a lengthy effort by Paramount's Davis to forge a link with another major entertainment company. In 1989, he failed to break up the \$14 billion marriage of Time Inc. and Warner Bros. Inc., which created Time Warner Inc.

The new company will be the fifth-largest media conglomerate in the world, behind Time Warner, Rupert Murdoch's News

Corp., Germany's Bertelsmann A.G. and the Walt Disney Co. It will have combined annual revenues of \$6 billion, the companies said.

The transactions have been approved by the boards of both companies, they said.

Paramount, known as the parent company of its film and television studio, has produced such recent hit movies as The Firm and Indecent Proposal. It also was responsible for the highly successful U.S. television series Cheers.

Paramount also owns the Simon Schuster and Prentice Hall publishing houses and New York's Madison Square Garden.

Viacom owns MTV, VH-1, the Nickelodeon Network, the Showtime Movie Channel, Nick at Nite and MTV Europe. Paramount owns part of the USA networks.

Industry analysts said at the weekend that both companies would benefit from a merger, which would help feed Viacom's

programme-hungry cable TV networks while giving Paramount's films and TV programmes a valuable new distribution outlet.

Paramount earned \$261.4 million on revenues of \$4.3 billion in 1992. Viacom showed a profit that year of \$49 million on revenues of \$1.9 billion.

The new company's cable television systems will have 1.1 million subscribers in three regions of the United States. It also will own 12 television stations and 14 radio stations.

It also will operate five amusement parks, as well as Madison Square Garden, home to both the Knicks and the Rangers.

The deal is expected to be completed in late 1993 or early 1994, the companies said, with the stock portion of the transaction to be tax-free to shareholders.

The companies said that if the agreement is terminated before completion of the merger, Paramount will pay Viacom \$100 million.

Draconian policies win Estonia economic success

TALLINN, Estonia (R) — Two years after breaking free from the Soviet Union, the toughest policies in the former superpower have brought Estonia economic success.

The Baltic state, with a population of just 1.5 million, has a balanced budget, a stable, convertible currency and an economy which has started to grow again. August prices rose 0.7 per cent, compared with Russia's rate of almost 30 per cent.

"If you want to be successful, you have to be radical," Prime Minister Mart Laar said in an interview. "It is not possible to stop half-way and say it is all too difficult."

Mr. Laar, a bearded 33-year-old historian who took over as prime minister last year, bases his reform policies on fiscal and monetary measures unheard of in other former Soviet republics. He has opened up the economy to

trade and investment, adopted tough monetary policies, including positive real interest rates and control on money supply and launched a big privatisation drive.

He promises more of the same. Progressive tax rates will be eliminated in favour of a single rate for all taxpayers.

"If you work more, you earn more," Mr. Laar said, speaking in his office in Tallinn's ornate Toompea castle last week.

He said the milder economic policies and graduated tax rates of the West could not work in Estonia, where tax evasion is rife and the tax collection system rudimentary.

But while support for reform remains strong, even among Russians disenchanted under tough nationality laws, Western diplomats say political uncertainties could yet deter the big foreign

investors Estonia still needs.

"Of course there are political risks, especially as far as the Russian population is concerned," said one Western diplomat. "But by and large I am optimistic."

Forty per cent of Estonia's population is Russian or Russian-speaking. The nationality laws mean they must learn some Estonian to qualify for citizenship and many fear being treated as second-class citizens or even being forced to leave.

The cornerstone of Estonia's economic reform was the introduction in June last year of a separate kroon currency, which replaced the Soviet-era ruble and is still the only fully convertible currency in the former Soviet Union.

Pegged at eight to the German mark and defended by a staunchly independent central bank, the kroon has given Estonia economic

stability, the key ingredient missing elsewhere in the former Soviet Union.

Central bank president Siim Kallas says annual inflation will be 25 per cent this year, after last year's 1,000 per cent. By 1995 inflation should match German rates, essential if Estonia is to maintain its long-term peg to the mark. "Our main task is to maintain the stability of our currency," he said.

The next stage of Estonia's reforms is due next month, when the government presents its 1994 spending plans, aiming — at a balanced budget.

Mr. Laar said the budget would be accompanied by new tax proposals, setting a flat-rate income tax of between 26 and 28 per cent and cutting corporate tax to 30 per cent from 35 per cent.

He said the new system would probably reduce tax evasion.

France to make sweeping tax cuts

PARIS (R) — France will make sweeping cuts in income tax in its 1994 budget and reform a tax system that has been too complicated for too long, Budget Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said Sunday.

"We want to underpin demand and encourage work," he asked. "It has become totally nonsensical."

However, the tax cuts will not restore the earnings lost by previous tax rises under the six-month-old conservative government, which inherited a large budget deficit from the outgoing socialists.

Shortly after coming to power, the government more than doubled a broad-based tax on all wages and capital gains to 2.4 per cent to raise an estimated 25 billion francs (\$4.5 billion).

It also raised taxes on petrol and alcohol as part of a plan to stimulate building and relieve employers' charges.

The 1994 budget is to be presented to the cabinet.

to seven from 13 to iron out complexities.

He also criticised the current system for penalising those that increase their earnings from one year to the next.

"How do you expect to stimulate and encourage work?" he asked. "It has become totally nonsensical."

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The 1994 budget is to be presented to the cabinet.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With both the Sun and the Moon in Virgo today you can think out what your loftiest aims and ambitions actually are and just how you are best able to show others that you are able to amuse and entertain.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't go out on a limb for some unusual companion today but instead show your bigwigs who are watching your progress that you do a splendid job at tasks.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A family affair requires some close attention early after which you are able to find the right outlet by which to show your special gifts to others.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You find an unusual material condition facing you requiring more than usual foresight after which you can get into handling these messages of importance.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think about how to get out from under a curious condition but then you will be able to get into your practical affairs and work them out.

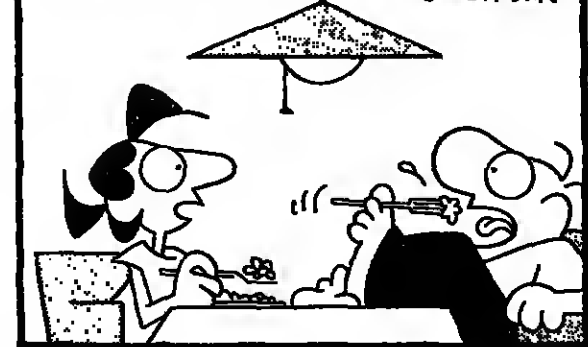
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You feel limited and you are early but this soon passes and you can go after what you really desire the most in a clever and intelligent fashion.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well how best to treat a demanding associate but later you are able to get off with the one you enjoy the most for a happy time.

Virgo: (August 22 to September 22) Difficulties at your residence

THE BETTER HALF.

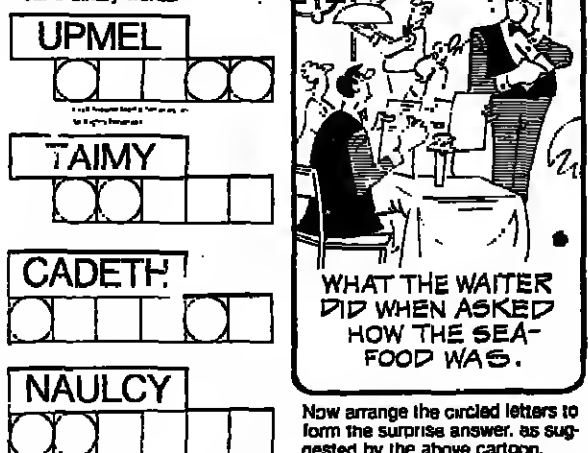
By Glasbergen



"Let me guess—you discovered another weird diet tip in one of my magazines!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: HE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRAVE BROIL IRONIC MODIFY

Answer: Something in a hat store that might make you look foolish—A MIRROR

Peanuts



Andy Capp

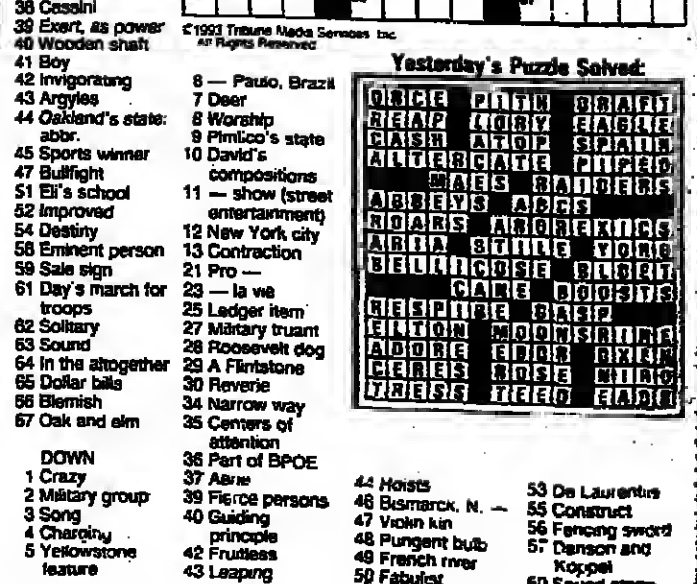
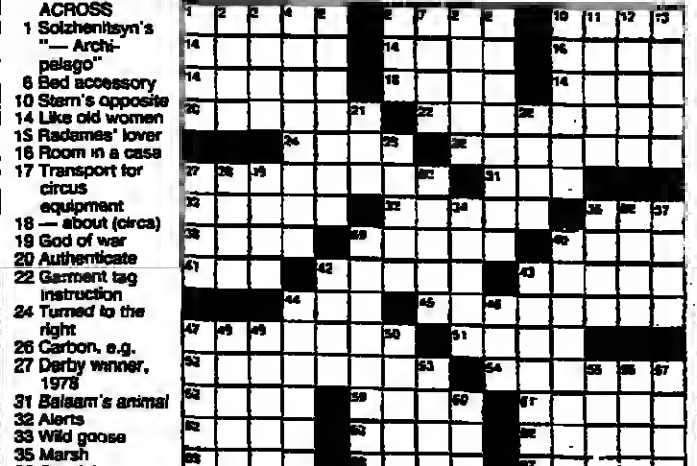


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword

by Virginia B. Hopewell



JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET
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 QUOTED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 13/9/1993

COMPANY'S NAME	VOLUME	PRICE	OPENING	CLOSING
ABN AMRO BANK	531,736	179.000	179.000	181.000
ABN AMRO BANK	54,256	6.350	6.350	6.300
ABN AMRO BANK	8,843	4.150	4.150	4.300
ABN AMRO BANK	100,820	6.000	6.000	6.150
ABN AMRO BANK	76,066	4.000	4.000	4.150
ABN AMRO BANK	63,090	5.000	5.000	5.150
ABN AMRO BANK	64,151	3.950	3.950	4.000
ABN AMRO BANK	3,474	4.050	4.050	4.100
ABN AMRO BANK	1,742	2.800	2.800	2.900
ABN AMRO BANK	6,780	4.450	4.450	4.500
ABN AMRO BANK	10,381	4.550	4.550	4.600
ABN AMRO BANK	6,005	4.650	4.650	4.700
ABN AMRO BANK	1,213	4.700	4.700	4.750
ABN AMRO BANK	48,498	1.550	1.550	1.600
ABN AMRO BANK	97,520	2.440	2.440	2.500
ABN AMRO BANK	14,552	3.620	3.620	3.650
ABN AMRO BANK	48,935	1.750	1.750	1.800
ABN AMRO BANK	483,043	2.320	2.320	2.370
ABN AMRO BANK	13,125	1.500	1.500	1.550
ABN AMRO BANK	31,542	4.780	4.780	4.820
ABN AMRO BANK	11,747	2.980	2.980	3.020
ABN AMRO BANK	65,291	4.000	4.000	4.050
ABN AMRO BANK	10,757	2.700	2.700	2.750
ABN AMRO BANK	11,380	0.970	0.970	0.980
ABN AMRO BANK	44,253	21.000	21.000	21.000
ABN AMRO BANK	48,253	21.000	21.000	21.000
ABN AMRO BANK	50,171	2.200	2.200	2.250
ABN AMRO BANK	762,658	2.100	2.100	2.150
ABN AMRO BANK	3,840	3.700	3.700	3.750
ABN AMRO BANK	10,757	2.700	2.700	2.750
ABN AMRO BANK	20,075	7.000	7.000	7.000
ABN AMRO BANK	11,540	11.500	11.500	11.500
ABN AMRO BANK	106,950	6.800	6.800	6.830
ABN AMRO BANK	9,603	1.500	1.500	1.550
ABN AMRO BANK	623	2.900	2.900	2.950
ABN AMRO BANK	23,380	3.650	3.650	3.700
ABN AMRO BANK	14,552	3.650	3.650	3.700
ABN AMRO BANK	10,757	2.640	2.640	2.690
ABN AMRO BANK	4,100	0.450	0.450	0.450
ABN AMRO BANK	301,441	16.600	16.600	16.600
ABN AMRO BANK	14,552	16.600	16.600	16.600
ABN AMRO BANK	137,499	9.850	9.850	9.900
ABN AMRO BANK	10,757	2.870	2.870	2.920
ABN AMRO BANK	7,000	2.870	2.870	2.920
ABN AMRO BANK	14,552	1.300	1.300	1.350
ABN AMRO BANK	7,630	0.400	0.400	0.430
ABN AMRO BANK	6,612	2.500	2.500	2.550
ABN AMRO BANK	31,990	1.850	1.850	1.900
ABN AMRO BANK	6,612	2.500	2.500	2.550
ABN AMRO BANK	20,302	1.000	1.000	1.050
ABN AMRO BANK	10,757	2.500	2.500	2.550
ABN AMRO BANK	71,914	0.470	0.470	0.500

GRAND TOTALS 4,612,489

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET 68613
 TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET 120 221450

Palestinian economy is make-or-break factor in Mideast peace

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — When the fanfare over Monday's PLO-Israeli peace accord subsides, Yasser Arafat will find himself sitting on a powderkeg that could imperil his historic achievement — economic blight in the land Israel has occupied for 26 years.

Leila Shahid, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Paris, said Friday that only by rebuilding the ruined economy in the occupied territories can Mr. Arafat justify the "concessions we've made to Israel" in the eyes of the Palestinians.

"We must create jobs, build hospitals, roads," she said. "If we don't succeed, it will look like capitulation."

The equation is starkly simple:

Without rapid economic reconstruction in the Palestinian areas, the peace process could be in danger.

Palestinians are divided over the peace plan, which initially envisages limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip, the most impoverished part of the occupied territories, and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Arafat is gambling on rapid reconstruction to help smother opposition among the 1.8 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, seriously neglected since they were captured by Israel in 1967.

His most pressing priority is reconstruction in Gaza, a 360-square-kilometre coastal strip on the Mediterranean where some

800,000 Palestinians are jammed into squalid refugee camps.

Gaza, with rampant unemployment, is a cauldron of anti-Israeli hatred that the Jewish state is only too happy to relinquish.

It is also a stronghold of Mr. Arafat's main rival, the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas Movement, which has been seriously eroding his traditional support in recent years.

To be sure, Mr. Arafat will not be inheriting a national debt. But to make self-rule work, the Palestinians need massive international economic aid.

The PLO is bankrupt and Israel, which has a vested interest in keeping a Palestinian entity, they will need to rehabilitate the West Bank and Gaza and build

The United States has proposed a \$590 million fund to help the Palestinians set up a self-rule administration.

The European Commission, which is already channeling \$100 million a year into the West Bank and Gaza, last week unveiled a plan for a \$575 million five-year aid package.

Norway, which mediated the secret peace negotiations between Israel and the PLO, and other Nordic countries have said they will cough up \$125 million.

The World Bank has proposed a \$1 billion package over five years.

But all this falls far short of the \$11 billion Arafat's men envisage. They will need to rehabilitate the West Bank and Gaza and build

an economic infrastructure.

Of that, about \$2 billion is needed for immediate development projects such as roads, sewerage, water and electricity and rehabilitating hospitals and educational facilities.

The PLO expects as much as \$750 million from wealthy Palestinian expatriates and is contemplating increasing a five per cent tax on salaries of Palestinians working in the oil-rich Gulf states.

Everyone's hankering on these states to help out. But the Gulf rulers remain reluctant to forgive Mr. Arafat for siding with Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in 1990, and anyway, they have been financially chastened by the 1991

Gulf war.

The PLO has been in dire financial straits since the Gulf bankrollers cut off funding three years ago.

In the negotiations on Palestinian self-rule, the PLO is expected to push Israel to open its markets for labourers from Gaza, where unemployment has swelled to 60 per cent of the 800,000 population.

PLO officials say many Gazans were pushed into the laps of Hamas not out of political conviction, but financial desperation.

There is no shortage of Palestinian technocrats to formulate an economic blueprint for recovery. The Palestinians have the highest proportion of university graduates of any Arab nation.

Italian workers' anger is sign of changing time

MILAN (R) — The threat of unemployment riots in Italy's depressed south may be just the first shots in a national economic revolution as profound as the political upheaval changing the face of Rome government, analysts say.

Government ministers and labour leaders were desperately seeking on Monday to defuse the danger of fresh violence at a southern state-owned fertiliser plant where some 300 workers have been barricaded inside for a week.

The workers are demanding the revoking of redundancy notices and say they will fight any

attempt to retake the plant by hundreds of police ringing the ageing and loss-making factory.

National union leaders say the disturbances at the Crotona plant, where workers burned cars and smashed administration offices, are a warning to the government that urgent action is needed to fight growing unemployment in the south.

"Crotona could be the first flash of a storm that risks erupting in many other parts of the country," Italy's largest union group, the CGIL, said in a statement.

For unions and some parts of the political left, Crotona is a symbol of the fight for jobs with

Italian unemployment running at some 10.5 per cent nationally and well over that level in parts of the south.

But many commentators see Crotona as epitomising Italy's dire need for economic change.

The plant, owned by state energy group ENI, reported to have lost up to 60 billion lire (\$38 million) last year, almost 100 million lire (\$62,000) for every worker employed in the 70-year-old plant.

Commentators say Italy can no longer afford, politically or financially, to go on subsidising such inefficient and costly industries.

The Italian state sector, running from the more traditional steel and defence industries to tourism and supermarkets, is the largest of any European economy with the exception of the former eastern bloc countries.

Most of it loses money, heavily.

Under pressure from the European Community (EC), Italy is launching an ambitious programme of privatisations aimed at leaving the state with a minor role in the economy.

But privatisations mean unemployment, at least initially, as private sector bosses seek a quick

return to profit.

"Italy is not in the midst of a simple (economic) recession. It is involved, probably against its will, in turning a state-dominated economy into one in which market forces rule," Panorama magazine said in an editorial.

The Christian Democrat and Socialist parties, which have until recently dominated Italian governments, used the public sector to win votes, with a job in state industry becoming seen as employment for life.

However, the corruption scandals of the past 18 months have

all but destroyed the traditional parties and thrown up new political forces unwilling to see state coffers raided for electoral purposes.

The northern league, which has surged to power in recent local elections across the richer north, advocates free-market economics with barely any role for the state.

Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who took office in June at the head of a government pledged to political and economic reform, has just introduced a budget slashing state spending as part of a three-year plan to put Italy's finances in order.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
 in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.5517	1.5490
Deutsche Mark	1.5970	1.5985
Swiss Franc	1.3915	1.3953
French Franc	5.5975	5.6735**
Japanese Yen	106.03	106.10
European Currency Unit	1.1855	1.1851**

* USD Per STG
 ** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Forwarding Rates: 13/9/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.06	3.25	3.38
Sterling Pound	5.81	5.81	5.61	5.62
Deutsche Mark	6.68	6.43	6.25	5.81
Swiss Franc	4.75	4.56	4.43	4.12
French Franc	6.87	6.75	6.37	5.93
Japanese Yen	2.68	2.59	2.59	2.59
European Currency Unit	7.68	7.43	7.06	6.50

Precious Metals: 13/9/1993

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	349.25	7.00	Silver	4.09	0.091

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin: 13/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0657	1.0710
Deutsche Mark	0.4303	0.4325
Swiss Franc	0.4934	0.4959
French Franc	0.1228	0.1234
Japanese Yen	0.6485	0.6517
Dutch Guilder	0.3830	0.3849
Swedish Krona	0.0447	0.0449
Italian Lira	0.0447	0.0449
Belgian Franc	0.0447	0.0449

Other Currencies: 13/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8250
Lebanese Lira	0.039375	0.040400
Saudi Riyal	0.1790	0.1850
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3350
Qatari Riyal	0.1855	0.1875
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.8000
UAE Dirham	0.1855	0.1875
Greek Drachma	0.28775	0.33755
Cypriot Pound	1.3825	1.4355

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 buys	Canadian dollar
1.3138/48	Deutschmarks
1.6040/50	Dutch guilders
1.7995/05	Swiss francs
1.3393/05	Belgian francs
34.16/31	French francs
5.6100/00	Italian lire
159.57/1.0	Japanese yen
106.05/15	Swedish crowns
7.816/36	Norwegian crowns
6.9840/40	Danish crowns
6.9950/50	
\$1.5535/45	
One sterling	
One ounce of gold	

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Serbs bombard Croatian town

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Rebel Serbs in Croatia bombarded the town of Karlovac Monday, and Serb-Croat fighting flared elsewhere in the republic, U.N. officials reported.

Eighteen mortar rounds and eight rockets fell on Karlovac, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) southwest of Zagreb, in the morning attack, said Simo Vahtaninen, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers.

Croatian TV reported several casualties but did not have details. Earlier in the day, the Serbs threatened "massive retaliation" if the Croatian army does not withdraw from two villages captured last week in a move that triggered the worst Serb-Croat clashes in eight months.

The Croatian Serb army said in a statement that the Croatian army must withdraw from the villages of Gluk and Divoselo, near Gospić on the fringes of Serb-held Croatia.

Otherwise, they will face "massive retaliation against military targets throughout Croatia," using weapons not seen before, said the statement, carried by Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency.

Mr. Vahtaninen said there was also fighting early Monday around Medak, some 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of Gospić, and in Crni.

The Croatian government-run news agency Hina reported that Serb forces fired 20 artillery rounds on Sunja, a frontline town located some 70 kilometres (45 miles) southeast of Zagreb. There was no immediate con-

firmation from the United Nations.

Over the weekend, Serb rockets smashed into Zagreb suburbs, signaling the Serbs' ability to carry war to the doorstep of the Croatian capital. No one was killed in Zagreb, but at least eight people died in nearby Karlovac during weekend shelling.

The two sides fought a bitter six-month war in 1991, ended by a shaky truce patrolled by some 14,000 U.N. peacekeepers.

On Sunday, the Croatian Serb army based in Kunit, Croatia, listed more than 50 "military targets" it said could come under fire. It encompassed seven targets in Zagreb, including the main airport, home to a U.S. military field hospital staffed by about 300 Americans.

Rebel Serbs still hold about one-third of Croatia, which they occupied with the help of the Yugoslav federal army in the 1991 war.

Croatian officials are impatient over the United Nations' failure to enforce a peace plan under which they expected to regain control of Croatian territory held by Serbs.

In neighbouring Bosnia, meanwhile, Croats and Muslims clashed around the fiercely contested town of Mostar, which Croats envision as the capital of their Bosnian mini-state.

Shelling and sniping are killing and wounding several people each day, said Lt. Bill Aikman, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers in Sarajevo.

"The only good news is that we're getting some casualties 'out' and convoys in," he added. Some 50,000 Muslims are trapped in eastern Mostar, desperately begging any outside visitors for food.

In the Sarajevo area and most other regions "the ceasefire is basically holding," said Col. Aikman. "But that does not preclude a low level of fighting."

Croat and Muslim-led Bosnian government forces also clashed overnight near Gornji Vakuf, which is close to a strategic ridge vital to both sides if they want to control central Bosnia.

Croat forces were blocking five military convoys in central Bosnia, with the United Nations refusing them the inspections they demand, Col. Aikman said. Aid convoys also are blocked by the central Bosnian fighting, posing problems in Jajnica, some 55 kilometres southwest of Sarajevo, where 11,000 Muslim refugees have arrived in past weeks.

Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic, a Muslim, is to meet Croatian President Franjo Tudjman for talks in Geneva Tuesday. It was not clear if they would solve a dispute over territory that led to the sudden collapse of peace talks on Sept. 1.

Mr. Izetbegovic seeks the Croatian Adriatic port of Neum as the outlet for a landlocked, Muslim-dominated mini-state that would emerge from Bosnia's partition between Muslims, Croats and Serbs. Mr. Tudjman refused, because that would cut the southern Adriatic coast, including Dubrovnik, off from the rest of Croatia.

Meanwhile, NATO has stepped into a minefield of political and military problems with its latest plans to deploy some 50,000 troops to keep the peace in Bosnia.

Diplomats said the project was at an early stage but that there were already differences between Washington and its allies over how any force would be commanded and concerns within NATO's military that not enough troops will be available.

U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin said Sunday that NATO could send up to 50,000 peacekeeping troops to Bosnia, half of them from the U.S. Armed Forces, but only if a peace agreement is reached between the warring Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

Such an agreement has so far proved elusive and NATO diplomats say that even if peace does break out, the 16-nation alliance will have serious problems in enforcing any agreement. "Not only is there a general dread of what we could be getting ourselves into here, but there are political differences as to be resolved," said one diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

The United States, worried that any operation in Bosnia could bring more trouble of the kind peacekeepers have faced in Somalia, is insisting that NATO has a much greater degree of control over the operation than some other allies would like.

While all agree that any new peace mission in Bosnia would need initial approval from the United Nations, Washington wants NATO's U.S.-led military command to take over the operation more or less completely after that.

Actor Raymond Burr dies of cancer

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Raymond Burr, the portly, gravel-voiced actor who solved countless crimes as television attorney Perry Mason, died Sunday night at his California ranch. He was 76.

He died in his sleep after a three-year battle against cancer, friends said.

Burr created the Perry Mason character for a television series which ran from 1957 to 1966 and then again in more than two dozen television movies after 1985.

The Canadian-born actor also had a hit with the television series *Ironside* from 1967 to 1975, as a wheelchair-bound detective paralysed from the waist down.

His resonant voice and commanding personality made Perry Mason, a character from Erle Stanley Gardner detective novels, into perhaps the best-loved attorney on television, unmasking villains in a series of gripping courtroom dramas.

Burr, who was born in New Westminster, British Columbia, also appeared in more than 90 feature films, including *A Place in the Sun*, *Affair in Havana* and *Alfred Hitchcock's Rear Window*. In the early years, he frequently appeared on radio and on the stage.

In his early film career, Burr often played the villain, a "smooth heavy," only graduating to be the hero when he won the coveted role of Perry Mason.

Burr had been twice-widowed and once divorced. His third wife, Laura Morgan, died of cancer in 1955. His only son, Michael, died of leukemia aged 10 in 1983.

He had a colon operation and then a kidney removed in February this year.

Charles Macaulay, a fellow actor who knew Burr for 30 years, said he died of liver cancer at his ranch near Geyserville, California.



Portraying Perry Mason in the long-running TV series of the same name, actor Raymond Burr (left) poses with actress Barbara Hale, who played the role of Mason's secretary Della Street in this videotaped photograph (AFP photo)

Macaulay said Burr died peacefully, with his doctor in attendance, at the ranch where the actor had grown orchids and grapes and raised sheep.

"He slipped away in his sleep," Macaulay told Reuters, adding that Burr had been in great pain and was being given a pain-killer.

Burr, gray-haired and bearded in later roles, was synonymous with television's Perry Mason, a wily defence attorney who always solved his cases, often representing the underdog and always seeking out the truth.

Macaulay said he doubted any-

one else could fill Burr's shoes as Perry Mason. "He's so indelibly imprinted in the American consciousness as Perry Mason," he said.

He fell ill again during the filming in Denver last June of the latest movie in the Perry Mason series, *The Case Of The Killer Kiss*.

Doctors found that cancer had spread from the liver and throughout his body, Macaulay said. About six weeks ago, doctors told Burr that the cancer was inoperable, he said.

S. African parliament to approve end of white rule

CAPE TOWN (AP) — Parliament convened Monday to pass legislation that would end white rule, and Nelson Mandela promised the lifting of sanctions as soon as the laws were approved.

"Legislators faced bitter opposition from white conservatives who threatened a civil war, but they vowed it would not delay their plans for multiracial elections in April."

"I believe that postponing the election would lead to more violence, and for that reason we could not even consider it," Constitutional Affairs Minister Roelf Meyer told reporters Monday before the afternoon session opened.

At issue in this 11-day special session are four bills, approved in black-white negotiations, that would put the country on an irreversible path towards multiracial democracy.

The most controversial would establish a Transitional Executive Council, a multiracial panel representing the different political groups that would help govern the country until elections are held next year. The council would severely undercut the president's powers and have the power to veto presidential legislation.

It also would meet the African National Congress' final condition for endorsing the lifting of all sanctions against South Africa.

"As soon as that bill has been passed by parliament, we will take that step," Mr. Mandela told a campaign rally outside Cape Town. "That is the significance of this parliament."

The other bills would set up a commission to oversee the country's first multiracial elections, and formally end government control of the media.

Debate on them was not expected until next week, and parliament must meet again in November to approve a new, post-apartheid constitution being worked out by black and white negotiators.

The laws are virtually assured passage in the all-white parliament, which is dominated by President F. W. de Klerk's National Party, but it won't be smooth.

The right-wing Conservative Party leader, Ferdi Hartzenberg, said he was "ready for the fight" the Conservatives planned to put up to try to block the bills. There had been rumours the Conservatives would boycott the session, but Mr. Hartzenberg denied this.

"We are here to fight these measures," he said over the weekend.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air France jet ends up in sea

PAPEETE (AFP) — An Air France Boeing 747-400 overran its runway and flipped into the sea Sunday while landing in Tahiti on a flight from Paris via Los Angeles, but all 270 onboard evacuated safely by inflatable slide, airport officials said. The plane was seriously damaged, especially the flight deck, which was wrecked by the collapsing landing gear, they said. Witnesses reported there had been problems with one of the port engines on landing. "It's a miracle the passengers got out unhurt," said an airline spokesman. A passenger said the plane landed heavily and part of the landing gear smashed through into the first class cabin. All take-offs and landings at the airport were suspended and pinpointing Air New Zealand and Qantas flights were being diverted to Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands or Honolulu.

IRA bomb blasts Belfast hotel

BELFAST (R) — An Irish Republican Army (IRA) car bomb Monday blasted a top Belfast hotel and injured a policeman trying to clear the area, police said. Police said the IRA, the guerrilla group fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, gave a telephone warning that was woefully inadequate. The 300-pound (136-kg) bomb was left in a stolen car dumped outside the Stannum Hotel. Sixty guests managed to get out before the blast, which shattered the hotel windows. A man living near the hotel said: "A policeman was trying to get us out. He was standing at our door and was hit in the back by shrapnel. Paramedics tended to him — he kept drifting in and out of consciousness."

Japanese emperor visits Germany

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Emperor Akihito arrived here Monday for his first visit to a reunited Germany at a time when the former World War II allies are both looking to increase their world diplomatic and military roles. Germany is the emperor's third and last stop on a three-country European tour, which has already taken him to Italy and Belgium. The main avenue in Bonn was decked out with alternate Japanese and German flags in honour of Emperor Akihito and the Empress Michiko. But the weather was cool and wet. Officially the Emperor, whose father Hirohito led Japan during World War II, has no political role today. But his first visit to the recently-reunited Germany has symbolic significance.

Gorbachev arrives in Athens

ATHENS (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev, the last president of the former Soviet Union, arrived Monday for a five-day visit to meet with Greek political leaders, give a major address and receive an honorary degree. Former German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, who holds an honorary degree from the Panteion School of Political Science, will bestow the doctorate degree upon Mr. Gorbachev. Mr. Gorbachev went straight from his airport arrival to pay a courtesy call on president Constantine Karamanlis followed by official reception by members of the committee who invited him here. He is scheduled to confer with political leaders including senior Constantine Mitsotakis Tuesday but will not meet with Greek Communist Party (KKE) Secretary General Aleka Papariga.

S. Korea's top prosecutor quits

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's prosecutor-general resigned Monday, saying his "lack of personal virtue" was impeding President Kim Young-Sam's social reform and anti-corruption drive. "I regret the prosecution is not able to live up to the expectations of the people despite its anti-graft activities and efforts for self-reform," Prosecutor-General Park Jong-Cheol said in a statement. "All this results from my lack of personal virtue," said 56-year-old Park, who has held the post for only six months of his three-year term. State radio said Mr. Park was taking responsibility for what is believed to be widespread graft and corruption in the prosecution service now coming to light after the financial assets of senior officials were revealed last week.

Angolan rebels close to taking Cuito

SAO TOME (R) — Angolan rebels are on the verge of overwhelming the besieged government garrison at Cuito after attacking from three fronts, Angolan state radio reported Monday. "There is a general fear in Cuito about our capacity to resist since the UNITA troops are using all means possible and are making the situation unbearable and desperate," reported the radio's correspondent in Cuito, speaking in a strained voice. UNITA was fighting all out to crush the garrison on Monday or Tuesday, he said in a broadcast monitored in the island state of Sao Tome.

22 killed in S. Africa bus crash

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Twenty-two people were killed and 34 injured Monday when two buses collided head-on on a road near South Africa's capital Pretoria, police said. The police death toll was too higher than that given by the bus company PUTCO. Neither police or PUTCO could give any reason on how the accident occurred, stating that both drivers were killed.

Norway's Labour tipped to survive election

OSLO (R) — Norwegians voted Monday in an election likely to return the ruling Labour Party to power despite high unemployment and surging opposition to government, plans to join the European Community (EC).

Two opinion polls Monday gave the Labour Party of Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland its highest rating this year, at above 37 per cent, and showed that a challenge from the main opposition Conservative Party was fading fast.

This is said for the Conservatives but it can be even sadder for the country if the polls are right, said Conservative leader Kaci Kullmann five, who favours more free enterprise for Norway and tax cuts.

Voting by Norway, 3.3 million registered voters began under grey skies in north Norway but with brighter weather up to the Arctic north. Most polling stations were open from 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) to 9 p.m. (1900).

Recent polls show Norway will swing to Labour and small leftist parties, as opposed to a rightwards trend in many European nations since the end of the cold war. Labour is helped by signs of economic recovery in Norway.

Monday's two polls, in the dailies *Verdens Gang* and *Arbeiderbladet*, gave Labour 37.6 per cent and 38.8 per cent respectively, up from 34.3 per cent at the last election in 1989.

UNTAC chief declares Cambodia mission a success

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — The head of Cambodia's 18-month U.N. peacekeeping operation, Yasushi Akashi, Monday declared his mission a qualified success but added that democracy was still a long way off.

"I don't think it has been an unqualified success," said Mr. Akashi. "Cambodia has taken a giant, positive step towards peace, reconciliation and democracy."

"Democracy in Cambodia will take perhaps years to come, but it has been so in many other countries," he said, adding that the role played by the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) should be judged over the long-term and by world standards despite its cost of \$2 billion.

Mr. Akashi, speaking to the Foreign Correspondents Club of Cambodia in his last scheduled public address before ending his mandate and leaving the country next week, said Khmer Rouge intrinsigence, slow U.N. deployment and inexperienced, unqualified personnel contributed to UNTAC's inability to complete its mandate.

But the mission chief readily called U.N.-sponsored elections in the country last May "resoundingly successful."

"The election was... a social revolution," he said, referring to the transition from a one-party Communist government to a multi-party system.

The mission however also had some shortcomings and was not able to adequately carry out all its tasks, including disarmament and

Indian police search Punjab for Delhi car bomb culprits, arrest 150 people

NEW DELHI (AP) — Police arrested about 150 people in Punjab state Monday while searching for guerrillas who planted a car bomb that killed eight people in central New Delhi.

Three terrorist groups in Punjab, a state bordering the capital, have said they planted the bomb that exploded Saturday outside the youth wing of the governing Congress Party.

The attack, which occurred near parliament, was apparently aimed at the president of the Youth Congress, Maninder Singh Bitta, who has been targeted by Sikh extremists from Punjab twice before. Mr. Bitta still walks on crutches because a terrorist attack last year destroyed one of his ankles.

Mr. Bitta, a Sikh who served as a police informer in the 1980s, later joined the Congress Party and emerged as one of its most vocal opponents of Punjab's war of independence.

India's police and soldiers have defeated many guerrilla groups in Punjab, but they are still seeking some of their leaders and skin-mishog nearly every day with terrorists. At least 17,000 people have been killed during the 10-year-old insurgency.

On Monday, police gunned down seven suspected militants in several confrontations around the state.

If Sikh guerrillas managed to

sneak the explosives into the city that went off Saturday, their move could challenge claims by the government that the insurgency has nearly ended.

The Khalistan Liberation Force, the Khalistan Commando Force, and the Bhindranwale Tiger Force of Khalistan — terrorist groups that Punjab police had claimed to have wiped out — took responsibility for Saturday's bombing, newspapers said Monday.

The groups are among a dozen that have been fighting in Punjab for an independent state of Khalistan for Sikhs, who form two per cent of 880 million people in predominantly Hindu India.

Ghali urges punishment for war criminals

CANBERRA (AFP) — United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali urged the international community Monday to punish war criminals and politicians directing actions which violate human rights.

In a message read to the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference here, he also condemned the deliberate targeting of U.N. and other humanitarian personnel, warning that such conduct must not be tolerated.

"Our anger and outrage at such tactics must not be allowed to

diminish," he said in a message to 500 parliamentarians from 100 countries.

"I call upon the international community to take action. Those responsible must not be allowed to go unpunished."

His message was delivered to the inaugural ceremony of the conference by former U.S. diplomat Joseph Verner Reed, now a special representative of the U.N. secretary general.

The speech also warned the U.N. would play a more interventionist role to stop governments abusing the human rights of their

citizens.

"The state is the best guarantor of human rights, and their surest champion," he said. "Through the actions of states, the concept of human rights has acquired real meaning."

"But, when states prove unworthy of their sovereign responsibilities, when they violate the fundamental principles laid down in the charter of the U.N. — when — far from being protectors of individuals — they become tormentors, the international community must take action."

UFO buffs stage convention

PORTSMOUTH, New Hampshire (R) — When police officer Kevin Semprini got his assignment to cover a convention, he didn't know what he was in for — an encounter with 500 true believers in aliens, flying saucers and other unidentified flying objects. "It's kind of bizarre," said Mr. Semprini, watching a slide show about a "face" on Mars a speaker claimed may have been carved by "ancient astronauts" from earth or their Martian ancestors. "I'd like to believe it," said the officer, "but..." Mr. Semprini was one of the few sceptics in the crowd. Most, gathered at a restaurant in this New England port city for the third annual New Hampshire Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network Conference, embrace the theory that mankind has blundered badly in caring for the Earth and that aliens are coming to take charge. Roberta Puhalski, 47, of Connecticut said she saw her first extraterrestrial in 1988. It was making noise in the hallway and woke her. "As it approached, I looked out from my waterbed and saw the figure," said the part-time columnist for the New York City-based *Space Newsletter*. "It had the huge head, very frail frame and overly extended arms," she said, adding that it was similar to the creatures in the hit science fiction film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

Jurassic Park threatens France's cultural identity

PARIS (AFP) — France's culture minister, speaking at the premiere of *Jurassic Park* at the American Film Festival in Deauville, said the film threatened his country's cultural identity. "This film is very impressive, but not at all touching nor human because of its special effects and it threatens French identity," Jacques Toubon said in a radio interview. "I find it abnormal that 450 copies of *Jurassic Park* (a film by Steven Spielberg) will be released in October and projected in one cinema in five in France," Mr. Toubon said. "The dominant position of certain big distribution companies such as United-International-Pictures represents 25 per cent of the market in France and 25 per cent in Great Britain by distributing films made by major film companies, so that as in other economic sectors it ends up by creating dominant positions," Mr. Toubon said.

Thailand said to cancel debt with poisoned syrup

BANGKOK (R) — A rural Thai woman faces murder charges after allegedly sending a neighbour poisoned cough syrup through the post, the Nation newspaper reported Monday. The poison package was accompanied by a letter from the neighbour's daughter saying the bottle contained a Chinese cure. Police told the newspaper Sompit Nuchsoon, 43, sent the poison so she would not have to return 50,000 baht (\$2,000) and a gold necklace left with her for safekeeping by the neighbour, Ki Noosing, 53.

Cops fail to pay phone bill; line cut

MANILA (AP) — Don't bother calling the district police headquarters in Olongapo City, advertised as the window to Philippine economic revival. The line was cut when the cops failed to pay the bill. Col. Josefine Faranon said the lines to the headquarters of the Metropolitan District Command of the Philippine National Police were cut by the state telephone company "because they didn't pay their bill," which amounted to 200,000 pesos (\$7,100). Col. Faranon, now assigned to a subordinate command, said commanders suspected some of the policemen may have run up the bill by making personal calls abroad. Olongapo, roughly 40 kilometres (25 miles) northwest of Manila, is the home of the former U.S. Subic Bay Naval Base.

Broadway musicians talk past contract deadline

NEW YORK (R) — Broadway musicians put off a strike for at least five days Sunday evening, deciding to keep talking with producers on a new contract, a union spokeswoman said. The contract was due to expire at midnight Sunday and Musicians' Union members have overwhelmingly authorised a strike, but no strike deadline has been set, said union spokeswoman Judy Smith. The two sides are divided over the issue of the minimum size for orchestras, which are mandated based on theatre size under the musicians' contract. Producers want the guaranteed minimums reduced, saying the current rules cost money because they must pay for musicians even if they are not needed to play.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مكتبة ابن خلدون"

Chinese women shatter athletics records

PEKING (AFP) — Wang Junxia broke her fourth world record in an amazing week for Chinese athletics when she took possession of the 3,000 metres standard Monday.

Her time of 8min 6.13sec at the National Games was an incredible six seconds faster than the mark she set 24 hours earlier when she became the first woman to hold both the 3,000m and 10,000m records.

On Yunxia, who led a Chinese clean-sweep of the 3,000m at last month's World Championships in Stuttgart, also bettered Sunday's time by one hundredth of a second.

Five Chinese women had broken the old record in Sunday's heats with Wang fastest in 8:12.19.

That was an astonishing 10sec better than the 8:22.62 Russia's Tatyana Kazankina ran in 1984.

The 20-year-old Wang, who knocked 42sec off Norwegian Ingrid Kristiansen's seven-year-old 10,000m record last week, has now clipped 16sec off the record for the 3,000m — an unheard of progression for world records.

Her 10,000m record was the equivalent of running two 5,000m of 14min 45sec — a time which only Kristiansen (14:37.33) and South Africa's Elana Meyer (14:44.15) have managed.

Wang, who says she runs the equivalent of a marathon a day in training, won the 10,000m at Stuttgart and has also run the fastest women's marathon this year.

Qu, who won a bronze medal at 1,500m in last year's Barcelona Olympics, broke the world record for that distance Saturday.

Qu's time of 3:50.46 improved by two seconds the record



Wang Junxia (No. 13) is followed by Qu Yunxia in the women's 3,000 metres semi-final at China's 7th National Games (AFP photo)

Kazankina set in 1980 and which many thought would never be broken. Kazankina, a triple Olympic champion, ended her career under a cloud when she refused to take a drug test in Paris.

Wang's 3:51.92 also beat Kazankina's 3:52.47 so she could claim to have broken four world records — 1,500m, twice at 3,000m and 10,000m.

China now holds the world titles and records for the 1,500m, 3,000m and 10,000m — an unprecedented achievement — and if

sporting prowess is anything to go by it might win them a few votes when the International Olympic Committee votes who gets the 2000 Olympics in 10 days' time.

The performances have sparked allegations of drugs abuse from abroad but the Chinese have vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

Ma Junren, coach of the Chinese athletes now known as "Ma's Family Army," hit back at the accusations.

U.S. Open

Sampras supreme in 2nd U.S. Open triumph

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Pete Sampras took full advantage of Cedric Pioline's Grand Slam inexperience Sunday to beat the Frenchman in straight sets to win the 1993 U.S. Open tennis championship.

Sampras, who added the title to the 1990 U.S. Open crown and this year's Wimbledon title, said the trophy was far more important than the world number one ranking he regained on the way.

"Grand Slam titles, that's what it is all about," he said. "I think winning Grand Slams is more important than anything else."

While Sampras was playing in his third U.S. Open final in four years, Pioline was in his first Grand Slam final and trying for the first tournament victory of his career.

The jitters showed, especially in his serve. He made his eighth double fault of the match on Sampras' second match point.

Earlier he had double faulted on three break points, and he double faulted in the opening set.

Nor was Pioline as effective from the baseline as he was in beating world number one Jim Courier in the fourth round.

In that match Pioline's heavy groundstrokes had proved devastating off both the forehand and backhand, but Sunday he had trouble keeping his accuracy.

"He got a bit tight on the break points," Sampras said. "He double faulted on some, so that's obviously what happened."

Sampras said it was a bit anticlimactic to win the match on Pioline's double.

"It would have been nice to win it a couple of points before, when I made that great volley," Sampras said. "It's a great feeling."

Pioline, the first Frenchman to reach the U.S. Open final since Henri Cochet in 1932, never recovered. He did not have a single chance against Sampras serve in that set, which was over in just 37 minutes.

With the victory, Sampras became the first man since Boris Becker in 1989 to win both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in one year.

He also achieved a measure of revenge for his defeat here last year, when he lost to Sweden's Stefan Edberg while still feeling the effects of an upset stomach he suffered the night before.

Edberg was one of the many early casualties of the tournament this year, along with Courier and Becker, French Open champion Sergi Bruguera and former Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi.

En route to the final, Sampras defeated France's Fabrice Sa-



Pete Sampras

toro, Czech Daniel Vacek, Frenchman Armand Boetsch, Swede Thomas Enqvist, Russian Alexander Volkov and his long-time rival Michael Chang, the seventh seed.

He said he had a better understanding of the importance of his achievement than he did when he won his first U.S. Open title in 1990, at the age of 19.

"Last time, it happened too fast," he said. "I can appreciate it more now."

Pioline, the highest ranked player in the men's game who has never won a title, could have become the first player since Mats Wilander won the French Open in 1982 to claim his first at a Grand Slam.

But his accomplishment at this U.S. Open is in the record books and he seems poised for future stardom.

Last year, Pioline entered the Open ranked 60th. He will leave this year as number 11 after becoming only the fourth Frenchman in the history of the U.S. nationals to reach the final.

Sampras said the wave of shock results at this year's tournament was due to the depth of top-class talent in tennis today.

"There are a lot of upsets these days versus 10 years ago. You used to expect McEnroe, Connors, Lendl and Borg in the

semifinals, whereas today it is a different story. There are so many guys out there that are dangerous."

(Karel) Novacek beats Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker loses to (Magnus) Larsson. Those guys are ranked 30, 40, 50 in the world. You just see that 10 years ago."

Steffi Graf kept her cool to lift the women's title with an easy 6-3 6-3 win against 12th seed Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic.

But while Graf and Sampras emerged triumphant and cemented their positions at the top of the rankings, many of their rivals seemed to regard the tournament as a chamber of horrors both on and off the court.

A record five men's seeds were eliminated in the first round and a record seven were gone by the second round, including two-time champion Edberg.

There were shocks in the women's event too. Jennifer Capriati was knocked out on the second day and four-time champion Martina Navratilova went down in the round of 16.

Players found plenty to moan and groan about — from the food at Flushing Meadows to New York's traffic jams.

"It is not really comfortable off-court here. The locker rooms are bad. The lounge is very crowded," said top seed Jim Courier before he bowed out to Pioline in the last 16.

Courier said he was frustrated by variations in the condition of the courts.

Eighth seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine branded the tournament as "the worst Grand Slam" after losing to Pioline in the quarter-finals.

Graf looking for more competition

Steffi Graf would like nothing better than to get some more competition.

"It was an incredible year, and I'm very happy about it," Graf said after winning the U.S. Open for the third time and her third consecutive Grand Slam tournament title. "But one player who has not been around for the last three Grand Slams — that's Monica Seles — I hope she'll be back soon."

Graf's only Grand Slam loss this year came in the Australian Open final in January — to Seles, and Seles is the one who has dominated women's tennis since Graf won a Grand Slam in 1988.

Bot Seles was stabbed in the back by a Graf fan during a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, April 30 and has yet to heal sufficiently to be able to play

again. And since she's been sidelined, Graf has been unstoppable.

Her win over Helena Sukova Saturday was the 14th Grand Slam crown of her career.

Graf defeated Mary Joe Fernandez to capture the French Open, Jana Novotna to triumph at Wimbledon, and finally Sukova.

"I think it's a great achievement to have been able to win three grand slams and be in the final of the other one," Graf said. "And having the possibility to even have a Grand Slam. I had it once. That is fine."

Graf's French Open victory boosted her back into the No. 1 spot on the Virginia Slims computer ranking, replacing Seles.

"Sure it helps to have a player who pushes me more," Graf said in acknowledging Seles' absence. "But I'm not necessarily a person who needs it, because I like to push myself. When I realise how well I'm playing, it's really difficult to do something against me."

Her latest title was Graf's eighth of 1993 and ran her U.S. Open match record to 51-7. So far this year, she is 63-5.

Another title for Sukova

Helena Sukova, playing in her third U.S. Open final in four days, claimed her second title Sunday as she and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario won the women's doubles.

Sukova and Sanchez-Vicario defeated South African Amanda Coetzer and Argentinian Ines Gorrochategui 6-4 6-2 in the final.

Sukova, who was the 12th seed in the women's singles, lost to top seed Steffi Graf in the women's final Saturday.

On Thursday, she had won the mixed doubles title with Australian Todd Woodbridge.

They defeated Martina Navratilova and Aussie Mark Woodforde.

En route to the doubles title, Sukova and Sanchez-Vicario upset the top-seeded pair of Natalia Zvereva and Gigi Fernandez.

Zvereva and Fernandez had been on course for a doubles Grand Slam, after winning the titles at the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon this year.

Sukova's earnings for the tournament totalled about \$400,000, but she said the victories were more important.

Olympics prestige does not come cheap

PARIS (AFP) — The prestige of staging Olympic Games, like the honour of winning gold medals, does not come cheap.

The city to host the 2000 Olympics may be celebrated, but it is unlikely to be laughing all the way to the bank.

With most Olympic organisers and their backers now seeing little change out of two billion dollars, the winning venue may even like to refer to the mixed fortunes of their lucky predecessors.

Los Angeles, hosts of the 1984 Games, made around \$250 million. Organisers in Seoul, where the Olympics went four years later, reported that they broke even.

But in Barcelona, where the last Olympiad was held in 1990, the amount of games-related debt hanging over the city is estimated at 280 billion pesetas (\$2.2 billion) by the mayor and 400 billion (three billion dollars) by the right wing and nationalist opposition.

The government came to Barcelona's rescue by paying 50 per cent of the \$1.13 billion overspend. But mayor Pasqual Maragall still insists: "The games were a safety net for the city against the recession that has hit Europe."

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ANNOUNCEMENT
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The Amman Baccalaureate School announces that the fund raising dinner scheduled to be held at the Inter-Continental Hotel on Wednesday, September 15th 1993 has been postponed until the evening of Wednesday November 24th 1993. The drawing of the lottery will therefore also be postponed until the same date.

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World Bank urges aid for autonomy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The World Bank called on the international community Monday to provide immediate financial assistance for economic and social development in the West Bank and Gaza.

Cao Koch-Weser, World Bank vice-president for Middle Eastern affairs, said immediate assistance and long-term assistance is needed as part of the bank's ten-year, \$3 billion development plan for the region.

"Time is of the essence" for both immediate rehabilitation and long-term development needs, Mr. Koch-Weser said as he began a two-hour meeting with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

He met with Mr. Arafat several hours before the signing of a Palestinian autonomy accord here with Israel providing for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho before it is later extended to the entire West Bank.

"The World Bank offered to be a close partner in development and we will work very closely with the Palestinians," said Mr. Koch-Weser.

"As an international institution, we're going to continue our close partnership with the Israelis and Palestinians in mobilizing these resources and providing technical assistance and advice and help," he added.

EC announces aid

The European Community agreed Monday to pay an extra 20 million ECU (about \$23 million) this year to help finance Palestinian autonomy in Jericho and Gaza.

The decision, to help implement the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accord, was announced in a statement issued at a meeting of EC finance ministers.

"The ministers also agreed to give urgent attention to an EC proposal for a 500 million ECU (about \$575 million) five-year programme for development aid in the West Bank and Gaza.

The 500 million ECU programme, presented by the EC's Executive European Commission last week, was endorsed by foreign ministers at a meeting at Aiden Biesem, Belgium, at the weekend.

Diplomats said approval was a mere formality which would come soon.

U.S. troops possible in Golan Heights — Christopher

NEW YORK (R) — United States troops could be deployed in the Golan Heights under any peace accord between Israel and Syria, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Sunday.

Asked on CBS Television if the presence of U.S. forces in the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967, might be part of any agreement between the two countries, he said "Absolutely."

"...any new agreement between (them) ... might well mean some kind of U.S. forces in the Golan..." he said when asked about a U.S. role in peace between Syria and Israel.

"As you know we have had an important role in connection with the (1979 Israel and Egypt) agreement. We provide a level of security in the Sinai and there may be a comparable role for the United States in the Golan Heights to give an assurance of security to Israel..." Mr. Christopher said.

"Our bedrock commitment to Israel for its security remains... We would approach any new agreement between Israel and Syria in the same spirit and so it might well mean some kind of U.S. forces in the Golan just as we've long provided forces in the

The statement said the new \$20 million ECU grant would be added to an amount of 70 million ECU (\$82 million) already budgeted this year for Palestinian communities.

It said the money would be spent mainly on education, health, food aid and helping small businesses get started.

The ministers added that the EC had already contributed close to one billion ECU (\$1.15 billion) to the Palestinian population over the last few years.

"The community plans for the up-coming five-year period also comprise substantial assistance to neighbouring countries affected by the peace process," the statement said.

The foreign ministers agreed at the weekend that EC aid to the Middle East region should aim at promoting inter-Arab cooperation among former adversaries.

The 500 million ECU, to be supplied over the five-year life of the peace agreement, is essentially aimed at financing infrastructure which Israel should have provided as the occupying power, an EC official said.

He said a special effort would be in Gaza, which he described as a "big waste disposal area" with no telephone service, unhealthy water, and one of the world's highest birth and unemployment rates.

Construction of a 200-bed hospital in Gaza is currently the EC's biggest project. The official said the commission was designing waste disposal systems for garbage now thrown into the Mediterranean and for the Rafah refugee camp in the south.

Annex IV of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement says:

"The two sides will cooperate in the context of the multilateral peace efforts in promoting a development programme for the region, including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, to be initiated by the G-7. The parties will request the G-7 to seek the participation in this programme of other interested states, such as members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development regional, Arab states and institutions, as well as members of the private sector.

The development programme will consist of two elements: A) An economic development programme for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. B) A Regional economic development programme.

Asked if the United States was prepared to push along talks between Israel and Syria following the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, Mr. Christopher said:

"We'll certainly play whatever role the parties want us to play. This agreement (between the PLO and Israel) will provide a catalyst, an impetus to make progress on the other tracks... the Syrian track is certainly an essential track."

"The Israelis are looking for a full peace and the Syrians are looking for a full withdrawal but... beneath that simplicity there is great deal of complexity..."

"The U.S. can serve as an intermediary... helping reach the issues that underlie those complexities... and we will continue to work on this... President (Bill) Clinton has directed me to be available to the parties..." Mr. Christopher said.

Asked if he might travel to the Middle East soon to help move the talks along, he said he had no plans for now but "I wouldn't be surprised to be back there in the relatively near future." He did not elaborate.

PLA commander says he will not face civil war

CAIRO (R) — The commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) Monday dismissed the prospect of civil war when his forces return to Gaza after 26 years to exile in Egypt.

"They are all our relatives there and they are waiting for us to return. There will be no bloodshed when we return. We will not have another Afghanistan," Lieutenant-General Abdul Hai Abdul Wahed told Reuters in an interview.

The 54-year-old commander also made it clear where his loyalty lay should Palestinians in the narrow strip object to the agreement that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were signed last Monday.

"I want to add that we follow Abu Ammar's (Arafat) orders. We follow him by name," he said.

PLA sources said the group, formed as a Palestinian army in 1953, was training to become a national guard responsible for controlling the Palestinian side of Gaza's borders with Egypt and Israel.

They would go back within three or four months, he said. A different group of Palestinians, many of them from the occupied territories, will train as a police force.

Gen. Abdul Wahed said his PLA contingent, made up of young Palestinians born and bred in Egypt, would be joined shortly by other units from Sudan, Yemen and Libya to train.

According to the terms of the peace treaty, Israeli troops will withdraw from Gaza and Jericho within six months but will remain responsible for external security. Palestinians will control internal security and public order.



Palestinians celebrate in Jericho in a rally for peace before Monday's signing in Washington between

Israel and the PLO for an accord granting autonomy for the Palestinians in the occupied territories (AFP photo)

No flags, no anthems, every detail scripted

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ceremony was choreographed down to the last footnote. The White House was taking no chances of a protocol lapse during the fragile peace dawn between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

No flags fluttered and no anthems were heard when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat walked onto the South Lawn. That was to avoid offending anyone: The Palestinians, who don't have an independent state, or the Israelis, who do.

Throughout the world millions watched on television a series of pictures few ever expected to see. Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat emerging from the White House together, on either side of President Bill Clinton. The two shaking each other's hands, not once but twice, Mr. Arafat politely applauding Mr. Rabin's remarks.

The first meeting between the one-time bitter enemies occurred away from the 3,000 invited guests and the eyes of the world. The two joined other dignitaries, including former presidents George Bush and Jimmy Carter, in the Blue Room for a pre-ceremony gathering hosted by Mr. Clinton.

Excitement was running high hours before the ceremony to sign the historic accord, which promises Palestinian self-government. TV anchors reported live from the South Lawn, and a long line of reporters and visitors snaked outside the White House gates as early as 6:30 a.m.

A group of black robed ultra-orthodox Jews opposed to the Israel-PLO accord led a festive atmosphere to the chaos, standing across from the White House and singing Hasidic songs about the advent of the Messiah.

The ceremony, lasting slightly more than an hour, began at 11:15 a.m., with Vice-President Al Gore leading a small procession onto a five-metre by eight-metre stage surrounded on three sides by plastic folding chairs to seat the guests.

Mr. Gore was accompanied onto the dais by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas — also known as Abu Mazen. They were followed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Bringing up the rear: Mr. Clinton, flanked on the right by Mr. Rabin and on the left by Mr. Arafat, who was in military garb topped by his customary kaffiyeh.

Brief remarks followed, by Mr. Clinton, Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat, who spoke in Arabic and had an English translator. Mr. Peres and Mr. Abbas each then signed two copies of the agreement, which grants self-

government to the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Finally, as Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin looked on, Mr. Kozyrev affixed their signatures as witnesses, their golden pens flickering in the mid-day sun.

The accord was signed at the same walnut conference table on which the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty was signed at the White House. Bought by President Grant in 1869, it has more lately been hoisted in the Treaty Room and was used to sign treaties and agreements with former Soviet republics in 1992.

One of the few moves left without a seeming blueprint was the question of whether Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin would shake hands. Both left open the possibility that they might. Mr. Arafat made the first move and, after hesitating briefly, Mr. Rabin grasped his hand.

The ceremony closed with remarks by Mr. Christopher, Mr. Kozyrev, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat, who also spoke in Arabic, followed by brief closing comments by Mr. Clinton. Mr. Clinton then led his guests down to the audience to shake hands with dignitaries, among them Mr. Bush, former Secretary of State James Baker and Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Last minute change"

A last-minute dispute over the wording of the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO resulted in a small but significant change in the text just before the document was signed Monday.

A White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity said that in the Blue Room reception just before the signing ceremony, the word "PLO" in the preamble of the agreement.

Another administration official said the same change was made in other parts of the agreement as well.

The change was made at the request of the PLO and written into the agreement by Martin Indyk, a National Security Council official.

Earlier Monday, a Norwegian peace negotiator had said that Israel refused PLO requests to change the text.

The agreement had been initiated in Oslo on Aug. 19, after months of secret negotiations led by a small team of Norwegians, including Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst.

In Washington, Mr. Arafat demanded that the wording be changed so that it referred to the PLO instead of the Palestinian delegation, Norwegian state radio, NRK, and the national news agency, NTB, reported.

He said obstacles to a lasting peace include "when the elections will be held to choose administrators for the Palestinians' governments, who will be permitted to vote in those elections, what transfer of authority will be transferred to the Palestinians, how quickly will the talks be initiated to look at the permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza; how much of the West Bank will be on the table for ultimate resolution. Those are the kind of things that are very difficult issues that haven't been resolved."

Asked if he would be available to help the Palestinians set up elections when the time comes, Mr. Carter said, "As you know, one of the ongoing roles of the Carter Centre is to help developing countries deal with the election process. If we are asked to come in by the Palestinians, which we already have been, and if the Israelis ask for our help, we will be available."

Carter sees 'Camp David dreams' fulfilled

ATLANTA (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter, architect of the 1978 Camp David peace accords between Israel and Egypt, said he believes Monday's signing of a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the opening of a door that cannot be closed.

"To see the Palestinians and the Israelis shaking hands will send shivers of excitement down my spine and maybe a tear to my eyes," Mr. Carter, in Washington to attend the signings at the White House, said in an interview with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "For the entire world, this is symbolically and tangibly an extremely historic and significant achievement, and I'm very grateful to be here."

Mr. Carter, who met Sunday night with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at Mr. Arafat's hotel, said they talked about the Camp David accords.

"We met in a hotel lobby full of Palestinians who are very excited about what has happened," Mr. Carter said. "To be recognised as human beings and not as terrorists is very exciting to them and very exciting to me. Arafat was today very complimentary about the Camp David accords and how they provided a framework for these agreements. He quoted a number of phrases that had been derived directly from the Camp David accords."

Mr. Carter said the Israel-PLO accord is long overdue.

"When we completed Camp David, I thought this day would come a lot earlier," he said. "But during the eight years of Ronald Reagan, no progress was made at all on Camp David. I was very grateful when President Bush and Secretary of State Baker initiated the talks in Madrid. But as you know, all of this present agreement was negotiated in Oslo. In this case, the Norwegians provided a forum and they provided the mediation service that made it possible for them to reach agreement. So, in effect, we just moved from Camp David to Oslo in this 15-year period."

Mr. Carter said he thought a strong U.S. mediation effort would be very beneficial "when Israel moves to the next major step, that is, with Syria."

He said obstacles to a lasting peace include "when the elections will be held to choose administrators for the Palestinians' governments, who will be permitted to vote in those elections, what transfer of authority will be transferred to the Palestinians, how quickly will the talks be initiated to look at the permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza; how much of the West Bank will be on the table for ultimate resolution. Those are the kind of things that are very difficult issues that haven't been resolved."

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Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview that while his accord with the PLO might not be the best possible deal for Israel, he was not concerned because his government would negotiate peace from "a standpoint of strength."

In an interview published in Monday's editions of the New York Times, Mr. Rabin offered

Even speeches reflected unequal balance of power

By Ayman al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The terms of the Israeli-Palestinian self-rule agreement reflected the balance of power between the two sides. So in fact did the speeches that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat gave at the signing ceremony of the agreement at the White House yesterday.

Mr. Rabin spoke the words of a leader of a people who knows that the balance of power is tilted in his favour. Mr. Arafat's speech, on the other hand, clearly indicated the PLO's recognition that its choices are limited to what the Israelis are willing to give, what the international community would support and make possible.

ancient and eternal capital of Israel." The PLO chairman only mentioned it as part of the issues the negotiations on the final status would tackle.

Mr. Rabin recalled the history of the Jews to affirm their "rights" to Palestine. Mr. Arafat contended himself with words on international legitimacy and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Though racing more than 3,000 world dignitaries and television cameras that broadcast his speech live to the whole world, Mr. Rabin was directing his speech essentially to the Israelis. With power on his side, he cared more about what his people back home would think than about what the rest of the world would.

But Mr. Arafat knew the success of his rule on Gaza and Jericho would be determined by the help that the United States and other international players would provide him with. Without their economic aid and political support, the self-rule authority he will set up in the two areas would be doomed. Hence was the focus in his speech on what the world wanted to hear and what he expected of it.

Mr. Arafat was more concerned with voicing his need for support and getting commitment from the West. That seemed to have been more important to him than arguing the legitimacy of the Palestinian rights in Palestine.

The PLO chairman also addressed Arab leaders to make sure they give him a helping hand, and he wanted to assure them that he will not pursue a separate peace with Israel.

Mr. Arafat knew that what the West House decided to do eventually would be a major factor in what the Palestinians can achieve. Mr. Rabin knew it was the Israelis who held the upper hand. That is why perhaps Mr. Arafat talked to Washington, Mr. Rabin to Israelis at home.

COMMENTARY

While Mr. Rabin emphasised the unease with which his government is turning a new page in its relations with Palestinians, summoned the past as a witness to their "rights" in the occupied territories, Mr. Arafat mainly spoke of the future and the hope for better life for both the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Mr. Rabin spoke of the Israeli soldiers who died while fighting the Palestinians, "the parents who buried their sons," and the suffering of the Jews in the Holocaust. Mr. Arafat, however, failed to mention the Palestinians who have been killed at the hands of the Israelis and the children who grew up as orphans in camps. He only briefly referred to the historic injustice that was done to the Palestinian people.

The Israeli prime minister spoke of Jerusalem as "the

more than 60% of Israelis, Palestinians favour accord

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — More than 60 per cent of Israelis and Palestinians support the peace agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel, according to two polls released on Monday.

The surveys also indicated that Palestinians and Israelis overwhelmingly support calls for a national referendum to win wider support for the peace plan, which will give Palestinians autonomy in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho in the occupied West Bank.

The survey of Palestinians was conducted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by the Centre for Palestine Research and Studies, based in the West Bank town of Nablus. It was taken on Friday and Saturday, just as Israel and the PLO signed a mutual recognition agreement.

It showed 65 per cent supported a second agreement signed on Monday, this one granting limited self-rule to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho. Twenty-seven per cent were opposed, and six per cent had no opinion.

The Palestinians were split over whether they should call an immediate end to their six-year-old uprising against Israeli rule; 46 per cent said yes, 42 per cent said no and 10 per cent said they were not sure.

Eighty per cent said a referendum should be held on the peace plan, 14 per cent said no and four per cent said they were unsure, according to the poll.

In all, 1244 Palestinians over the age of 18 were questioned. The poll has a margin of error of three per cent.

The Israelis were surveyed by the New York-based American Jewish Committee. According to this survey, 62 per cent of those questioned supported the peace plan, while 38 per cent were opposed, the daily Jerusalem Post reported.

no details about his objections to the accord, saying only: "There are many formulations that I don't like."

"I'm not trying to beautify the agreement," Mr. Rabin told the newspaper, adding that much hard bargaining would be needed in the months to come.

The prime minister also said that while he was sure he currently enjoyed the support of most Israelis, the situation might not be the same in a year.

He said he would have to scramble to win the backing of a majority of Jewish lawmakers when the plan on Palestinian self-rule comes up for a vote.

"It's a problem — I cannot deny it," he said of the parliamentary battle to come.

Although ruling out new elections, he said that a referendum on the PLO accord was possible if the deal fell through in parliament.

In the interview, conducted on Saturday in Jerusalem, Mr. Rabin, a former soldier, said it was hard for him personally to make peace with the PLO, a harder still to sell the idea to the families of Israelis "who fought the PLO terror groups and lost their lives."

The reaction in Israel to Monday's signing of the agreement was mostly muted.

In occupied Jerusalem, about 150 people gathered in a downtown park at a rally sponsored by the group "Peace Now, singing pacifist songs and watching a live broadcast of the White House signing ceremony.

The military and police force cancelled all leave and deployed reinforcements to prevent possible attacks by hardline groups opposed to the peace deal.

"We know that fundamentalists want to torpedo the peace process and will continue their attacks. If we have to, we will strike back very hard," said Minister of Police Moshe Shabtal.

Four Israelis — three soldiers and a bus driver — were killed Sunday in attacks claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

The three Israeli soldiers were killed in an ambush in the Gaza Strip while a lone Palestinian stabbed a bus driver to death before being shot dead by a soldier.

COLUMN

Michael Jackson gets to Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson has arrived for his first Moscow concert, but the price of tickets mean he will remain as far removed from most of his fans as rock stars ever were during the Soviet era. In Soviet days, pop stars like Jackson were officially shunned as subversive elements, corrupting the young with loose morals and politically non-correct lyrics. Now, with ticket prices for the show starting at \$11 in a country with an average monthly wage of about \$50, cost is the main factor deterring fans. "Michael's visit here is a miracle," said 21-year-old student Vladimir Shubin. "But this miracle is not for me and for many like me. Where do they think I will find all this money? They are crazy." Vladimir, red-faced after struggling in vain to force his way through a police cordon to get a free ticket, was one of 250 fans who came to see the star arrive at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. He said he would not attend the show. Natasha, 17, was luckier, emerging clutching a brace of 18 tickets. "The girls in my class clubbed together to buy two tickets," she said. "Now I have one dream left — to see Michael face to face."

'Fallen' Irish women reinterrred after exhumation

DUBLIN (R) — The remains of 132 homeless women have been reinterrred after the discovery where they were buried was said off by an order of Dublin council to repay debts. The "fallen" women were unmarried mothers, prostitutes, orphans and destitute who had been taken in by the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in the 19th century to work in the convent laundry. The bodies were exhumed, cremated and buried at another Dublin cemetery over the weekend. The women's original resting place has been sold to pay off debts incurred by the nuns — opening a hostel for fallen women.

Hallstorm damages Hong Kong jetliner over China

HONG KONG (AP) — A severe hailstorm damaged a Lockheed Tristar carrying 300 people, including Britain's ambassador to China, as the jetliner approached Peking on a flight from Hong Kong. Dragon Airlines reported Monday. Jaekui Donaldson, spokeswoman of the Hong Kong airline, said the storm rocked flight KA330 Saturday and damaged cockpit windows and the radar dome in the plane's nose cone. She said no one was injured, and the plane returned to Hong Kong without landing in Peking, whose airport closed because of the storm. An airline statement issued later said the damaged plane would return to service Monday evening after repairs. It said all aircraft are able to withstand such storm damage and the passengers were at no time in any danger. Sir Robin McLaren, Britain's ambassador to Peking, who returned to Hong Kong Sunday, was quoted by the Hong Kong newspaper South China Morning Post as saying the trip was "dramatic and exciting."

China sets up a new hotline

PEKING (AFP) — China has set up a special hotline which the public can phone to denounce neighbours suspected of violating customs laws and receive a reward if they are right, the official China Daily reported Monday. All the offices of the General Administration of Customs are now equipped with the special number, it said. Those whose denunciations lead to seizure of contraband goods will get a reward of 10 per cent of the item's value, to a maximum of 100,000 yuan (\$17,000). Cases of smuggling rose 60 per cent in the first half of the year compared with January-June 1992.

Oprah takes the cake

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. entertainer Bill Cosby was nudged out of first place on the Forbes magazine annual list of entertainment millionaires by talk show host Oprah Winfrey. Winfrey pulls in the biggest bucks in entertainment, and with an estimated \$98 million over two years she has become the first woman to top Forbes' magazine annual list. Cosby topped the list last year but stumbled to third spot, earning only \$66 million over two years. The magazine called Winfrey a "vertically integrated entertainment powerhouse." She owns "The Oprah Winfrey Show," seen around the United States and in 64 countries.